VOLUME 08 | ISSUE 08

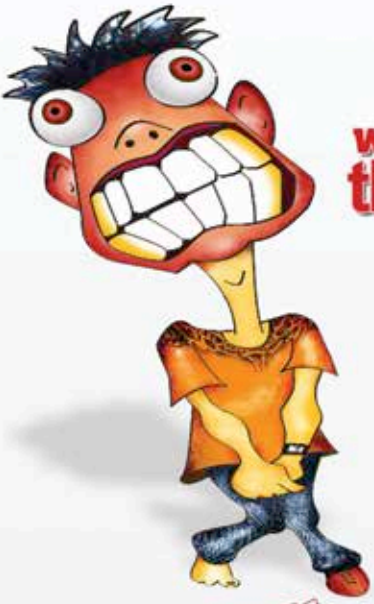
digit Fast Track

YOUR HANDY GUIDE TO EVERYDAY TECHNOLOGY

TO BlackBerry 10

- INTRODUCTION TO BLACKBERRY 10
- BLACKBERRY'S HISTORY
- THE BLACKBERRY 10 EXPERIENCE: WHAT'S NEW?
- ACCOMPLISHING EVERYDAY TASKS
- BLACKBERRY WORLD (APPS)
- SECURE YOUR BLACKBERRY 10
- BLACKBERRY 10 TIPS AND TRICKS
- BLACKBERRY 10 WORKSHOPS
- MEET THE NEW PHONES (WHICH ONE'S FOR YOU?)

A 9.9 Media Publication



www.
thinkdigit/forum

Join the forum to express your views and resolve your differences in a more civilised way.

thinkdigit
FORUM

Post your queries and get instant answers to all your technology related questions

One of the most active online technology forums not only in India but world-wide

JOIN NOW

www.thinkdigit.com

FAST TRACK to

BLACKBERRY 10

powered by

digit

YOUR TECHNOLOGY NAVIGATOR

thinkdigit.com

CHAPTERS

BLACKBERRY 10
AUGUST 2013

06 PAGE

BlackBerry's history
Just in case you're not familiar with the RIM/BlackBerry story, we'll give you a quick history lesson in this first chapter.

12 PAGE

The BlackBerry 10 experience: what's new?
Assuming that you've used an older BlackBerry (OS 5/6/7), in this chapter we will take a look at OS 10, and tell you what's new.

36 PAGE

Accomplishing everyday tasks
In this chapter we'll look at how you accomplish most tasks within the BlackBerry 10 OS, and also how to use all of the default apps that come loaded out of the box

60 PAGE

BlackBerry World (apps)
BlackBerry's version of their app store may not be the largest out there, but is certainly has some interesting apps. In this chapter we'll run you through how to get started with BlackBerry World, and also take a look at some of the best apps on there, in our experience

CREDITS
The people behind this book

EDITORIAL
Executive Editor
Robert Sovereign-Smith

Writer
Robert Sovereign-Smith

Features Editor
Siddharth Parwatay

DESIGN
Sr. Creative Director
Jayan K Narayanan
Sr. Art Director
Anil VK

Asst. Art Directors
Atul Deshmukh
Anil T

Sr. Visualisers
Manav Sachdev
Shokeen Saifi

Visualiser
Baiju NV

Layout
Robert Sovereign-Smith

74 PAGE

Secure your BlackBerry 10

BlackBerrys are all about security, and still are, though with the new OS, things are done just slightly differently in some places. Here we'll walk you through how to secure your device, so that even if you lose it, all of your data is totally private

78 PAGE

BlackBerry 10 tips and tricks

One of the things we like about BlackBerry is the shortcuts and hidden features that power users like to show off knowledge of. This chapter will detail some lesser known BlackBerry 10 tips and tricks, to really give you that edge over the average user.

84 PAGE

BlackBerry 10 workshops

It's all well and good to know about the phones and how to use them, but what do you do when you've just bought a new BlackBerry 10 device? This chapter will help you upgrade to a BlackBerry 10 device from an older BlackBerry, and also from other popular platforms.

90 PAGE

Meet the new phones (which one's for you?)

With three basic models of phones running BlackBerry 10 released, and a few more rumoured to be on the way, it becomes important to know what's really different between them, who should choose which one and why, and of course, what are the drawbacks if any. The last chapter in this book does exactly that.

© 9.9 Mediaworx Pvt. Ltd.

Published by 9.9 Mediaworx

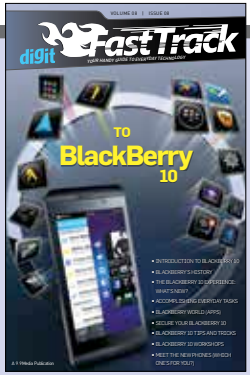
No part of this book may be reproduced, stored, or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of the publisher.

August 2013

Free with Digit. If you have paid to buy this Fast Track from any source other than 9.9 Mediaworx Pvt. Ltd., please write to editor@thinkdigit.com with details

Custom publishing

If you want us to create a customised Fast Track for you in order to demystify technology for your community, employees or students contact editor@thinkdigit.com



COVER DESIGN: PETERSON P.

Whatever happened

After BlackBerry OS 7, and the QNX-based OS for the Playbook, BlackBerry jumped directly to OS 10. Perhaps they wanted a more-rounded number for this new, more-rounded OS. Perhaps they just found 10 to be cooler than 8, or maybe they just felt it was at least 2 versions forward-looking based on the features they added on. Either way, don't look for OS 8 and OS 9, because they don't exist.

What does exist, however, is BlackBerry's biggest change in an OS for quite a while. Built from the ground up with touch-screens in mind, BlackBerry 10 will make earlier BlackBerry users gasp at the differences – put simply, it's light years ahead of the old JAVA-based OS in terms of capabilities.

Earlier Research in Motion used to be the company name, and BlackBerry the name of the OS and the devices they made. With the launch of the new OS – BlackBerry 10 – Research in Motion (RIM) also changed their name to BlackBerry. Things are a lot simpler now, especially for us end-users.

Rough estimates of global market share figures for currently running mobile OSes puts BlackBerry at a little under 3 per cent. This is down from about 20 per cent just a few years earlier. Suffice to say, BlackBerry 10 is what the company's hope rests on.

Understandably, a lot of our readers are interested in the new OS, but also wary, because Android just seems to be the default choice these days. However, Digit's always been about not making default choices, and making sure you know all the aspects, all the options, and have all the information you need to make sure you buy smart.

Have BlackBerry left it too late though? Will they be able to woo users back, and rebuild on what's looking to be a solid new operating system? Only time will tell if BlackBerry 10 can help the company regain some of its lost glory, depending on how you (the buyers) react.

This Fast Track will answer the important questions for you – not by spoon-feeding you the answers, but by giving you the best possible insight

to OS 8 and 9?

into the new OS that you can get, without actually buying the device for yourself. And if you've already taken the plunge, this Fast Track will help you get even more out of the latest BlackBerry OS.

As always, remember to send in feedback to: *editor@thinkdigit.com* about this Fast Track.

BLACKBERRY'S HISTORY

Just in case you're not familiar with the RIM/BlackBerry story, we'll give you a quick history lesson in this first chapter

In 1984, Mike Lazaridis founded a company called Research in Motion. It's widely believed that he was inspired to name the company that as he was quite taken by a news story's description of how football players played a particular game – poetry in motion.

Go back to the time of pagers, if any of you can remember that far back (or perhaps you weren't born / old enough), and you get to the beginnings of the wireless world. Today you take data on the go for granted, but we at Digit still remember the good old days of paying for a pager and a paging service. Marketing and sales executives swore by the pager, and the PCO (public call office) was the way we kept in touch when on the go. When a company / manager wanted to contact one of their employees, they sent out a page. Depending on how much was spent on the pager and the service (numeric or alpha-numeric), the employees being paged got either the phone number of the person trying to reach them, or a text message that they could read.

This writer still remembers using EasyCall to page friends and tell them where to meet up, or if venues had changed. Back then, you called an operator, gave them your short message and a landline telephone number (if you were near one), and either waited for the call back, or hoped the message got through to your buddy. Simple co-ordination between groups of people on the move was an undertaking of mammoth proportions. Today, a WhatsApp group chat does the same thing, but with so much less pain and time, and you always have the option of (ugh) calling, or even conferencing everyone in – instant connectivity.

Although the 1990s was when India awoke to the pager, and became one of the fastest growing markets in the history of paging, the US had already had paging services for decades. It was towards the end of this paging era that Research in Motion was founded, and went on to bring smart OSes to pagers first, and then phones later.

Beginnings

In April 1995, Motorola released the first two-way pager called Tango Two-Way Personal Messaging Pager. The Tango was able to receive text messages and email as well, and was able to reply with canned responses, such as

The Motorola Tango

"Can you meet?" or "Please call me". With devices now able to reply, and with the ability to send an email from a computer to someone travelling on the road, two-way paging and on-the-go email access became hot; very hot.

BlackBerry came into the picture with their first device called the RIM 850. This device had a QWERTY keypad, an OS that gave you access to email on the go, had a monochrome screen, and could even do some very basic HTML browsing. The device was called a BlackBerry later, presumably because the keys were shaped like the drupelets of the blackberry fruit. It received push email from a Microsoft Exchange Server by using the very first implementation of BES (BlackBerry Enterprise Server). This beginning is also pretty telling why RIM has always been so focussed on email as their speciality.

RIM / BlackBerry 850

Popularity

RIM / BlackBerry kept email at the centre of their ethos, and started adding layers of security that governments and enterprise customers wanted. High-grade encryption of emails being sent through the RIM servers meant that people were more secure knowing that their emails had been sent to the correct recipient, and would not get snooped on along the way.

In 2002, BlackBerry released their first phone-cum-messaging device – the BlackBerry 5810. It was still mostly a messaging device, and had no speaker /

BlackBerry 5810

earpiece, and thus needed a headset to be able to use the phone functionality. The next model, the BlackBerry 6210 (also called the BlackBerry Quark) was the first true phone, and added on BlackBerry Messenger (BBM). Thus the Quark was probably the first real "BlackBerry" in terms of being the type of device that we've come to expect from the company over the years.

BlackBerry Quark

Of course, all of these were still enterprise or professional targeted devices. The first consumer / end user oriented device was the Pearl 8100, which was launched in September 2006. Featuring a 65K colour screen (2.2-inch), 64 MB of memory, a 1.3 MP camera with LED flash, and weighing in at about 90 grams. The Pearl 8100 was also its first consumer success.

What really fuelled the adoption of devices was the fact that RIM tied up with many operators to provide their services globally. The fact that a BlackBerry was considered "professional" was good for it in India – as we're a tribe who love to look serious and business-focused. What really pushed adoption was the best darn push mail service on the planet. Period. If you were really serious about email on the go, nothing beat a BlackBerry back then.

BlackBerry 8100

Between 2005 to 2008, email was the driving force of everything tech on the go – keeping in touch with buddies, getting updates in the form of mailers, everything work related was on email... Add in the fact that BBM was an exclusive group – IM-ing other BlackBerry users seemed posh – and you have the recipe for the roaring success that RIM tasted through those years. Yes the iPhone came in 2007, but it was expensive outside the US, and BlackBerry remained a solid player for many more years.

The decline

BlackBerry is still one of the top 5 smartphone OS makers in the world, however, market shares (based on new sales) have gotten a little depressing for them. Considering Apple (iOS) and Android sales, that's about 90 per cent of the market accounted for. Used to be a time you couldn't really ignore BlackBerry when you talked smartphones, because it held as much as 20 per cent market share, this is now down to under 5 per cent, and to be honest, a lot of mobile app developers feel that it's not worth the trouble to re-design apps for 10 per cent of the consumer base (BlackBerry, Windows and others).

What this basically works out to is fewer users because there are fewer apps, fewer apps because there are fewer developers focussing on it, and fewer developers because there are fewer users. Sort of like chicken and egg conundrum. Honestly, our advice to developers is to develop for all platforms; not only does it level the playing field for platform wars (which benefit us end users greatly), it's also easier to get noticed for a good app and make money in a smaller pool, than it is to be spotted in the ocean of apps that are available for Android and iOS.

BlackBerry hopes that their new OS 10 will stop the rot, and turn things around for them. Embracing the touch-world now, they are finally competi-

The inspiration for the keys and the name BlackBerry come from the fruit

tive in terms of user interface and are gradually encouraging the developer world to build more and more apps for their platform. The ability to side-load Android apps is something that's also a little exciting for us geeks, but that's beyond the purview of this book. Watch the magazine and site for upcoming tutorials on this.

Why should you care?

It's obvious to the world that Apple's (iOS) and Google's (Android) offerings are the preferred OSes of choice today, and the fact that Android is open source and available from many more manufacturers also makes it a shoo-in to be at the top for a long time to come. So what's BlackBerry really fighting for? To give you a choice, for one, because what if you don't want to be limited to the top 2 OSes? Between BlackBerry and Windows, we now have a couple of more choices, for those who may not want to conform, or for those who prefer alternatives, and a different way of doing things. Thank <insert your choice of supreme being here> for options, or we'd all be listening to Justin Bieber all day if the music industry had their way! Monopolies also drive up prices and profits for the top companies, which means they can charge what they see fit. Android regulates itself by being open and multiple manufacturers compete with one another on the same platform, but iOS, for instance is solely Apple, and they can demand premium from those hooked on to their devices and services.

Plus, more players such as BlackBerry, Microsoft, and even the upcoming Firefox OS means more variety, and more companies pushing the envelope to innovate means better products are released for us to use. As we will detail through this book, there are some really interesting innovations being done by BlackBerry in terms of their OS and UI that we think others can learn from. It's not all good news of course, and there are some creases to be ironed out, but overall BlackBerry 10 is a bold step in a new direction for the company, and it's a good direction, as far as we're concerned.

THE BLACKBERRY 10 EXPERIENCE: WHAT'S NEW?

Assuming that you've used an older BlackBerry (OS 5/6/7), in this chapter we will take a look at OS 10, and tell you what's new.

When we first got our hands on the BlackBerry Playbook back in 2011, we got a hint of what the new design ethos of the BlackBerry OS would be. It was multi-tasking friendly, and it was obvious a lot of thought went into making it touch-friendly. Sadly, it also had a whole load of problems with it, and that's the reason, without mincing words, was a disastrous failure. We're sure BlackBerry will resent us putting it that way, but we're entitled to our opinion, and stand by it based on our tests. With the PlayBook being updated to the BlackBerry 10 OS, things have gotten better, but it's still far from our recommendation for a tablet.

BlackBerry 10 was launched with the Z10 in India in February 2013, and we'd had it before launch. It was similar to the PlayBook, but without all of the drawbacks of the latter.

For traditional BlackBerry users, who were so used to QWERTY keypads and scroll wheels, with the older devices that were squarely aimed at mass email and text messaging consumers, the Z10 was like a huge breath of fresh air, and also a huge face-lift in terms of the interface.

The BlackBerry Playbook

The new UI

The touch-based UIs of all phones and tablets centre around icons (Microsoft may call them tiles, but they're still big things that you tap on with a finger), and BlackBerry 10 is no different in that respect. As of now, no one has come up with a more intuitive interface than touch for phones, and we're still waiting for someone to design something other than icons/tiles for us to tap on like bored monkeys. Perhaps they never will, who knows.

What BlackBerry has done is to keep the interface familiar (for touch users of other OSes), and also thrown in some new methods and actions to keep things lively. Most important of these changes are the gestures that we'll explain in a bit. Also, the BlackBerry Hub concept of gathering all your data in one place, and an easily accessible Active Frame screen that shows all currently running apps, makes it easier to multi-task.

Gestures

As soon as you start up any one of the phones, you're given a tutorial on how to use the phone, including the gestures you can perform. This is important for those who have not used the PlayBook before, and although this requires a small amount of learning, it's so intuitive that you'll be used to it in under a day. Another testament to how intuitive these gestures are is the fact that after using a Blackberry 10 device for a week or so, we've found ourselves trying similar gestures on iOS, Windows or Android phones, and failing miserably of course. What's important to remember about the gestures is that swiping up and down has to be done from the bezel (the glass frame around the screen). Thus, you swipe into the screen from outside it to perform the gestures – swiping up or down within the screen boundary just vertical scrolls. You can also swipe and hold, and "peek" into the next screen. This allows you to perform a quick check of important notifications even when you have an app running in full screen. Great for multi-tasking; and this peek-feature is the foundation that the usability of the Blackberry 10 OS design is based on.

Let's take a look at some of the system-wide gestures you will have to be familiar with when using a BlackBerry 10 device.

Swiping up

To do this action, place your finger below the bottom edge of the screen and swipe up towards the middle of the screen. This, for all practical purposes,

is the action to minimise anything that's running. The action minimises the running app into an Active Frame, and shows all the other running (or active) apps. If you swipe right from here you go to the home screen, and swiping left takes you to the BlackBerry Hub (more on this later). Also, when the phone is locked, you can use this action to unlock it (as an alternative to pressing the power button on the top). If you've set a device password, this action will show the unlock screen so you can enter your password. You can also turn off this swiping up to unlock the phone action in settings, but more about that later.

Swiping up and holding

Similar to the previous step, you swipe up from the bottom of the screen, but you hold your finger on the screen instead of removing it. This shows the notifications on the left edge of the screen. This is basically useful to get a quick look at how many pending mails you have, or BBM messages, etc. If you release your finger in the middle of the screen, the running app is minimised. If you don't release your finger and swipe downwards again, the app you were in when you started the gesture is restored.

Swiping up and right

From the bottom bezel, swipe up and towards the right of the screen to get a peek at the BlackBerry Hub. This is similar to the previous gesture, but instead of just showing the number of new notifications on the left, slides the active screen to the right and displays the BlackBerry Hub's last screen. So if you were viewing BBM notifications, for example, the last time you visited the BlackBerry Hub, you will be able to "peek" at that screen. Continue the slide to the right and release your finger to go to the hub, or swipe back left towards the centre of the screen and release to go back to the screen / app you were viewing when you started the gesture.

Swiping down

To complete this action, you need to place your finger above the top of the screen, and swipe down towards the middle of the screen. If you are inside a running app, this will bring down the app settings panel (if applicable to the app in question). If you're in the BlackBerry Hub, the screen that lists running apps or the home screen, this brings down the quick settings menu where you can turn on or off Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, Alarm and Notification settings, and also access the phone settings.

Swiping to scroll

Like with any touchscreen device, swiping across the screen scrolls vertically or horizontally, depending on the direction of your scroll. When swiping up or down, if you started your action inside the screen area, you will scroll, if you started from the bezel, you will perform a gesture. Swiping left and right works exactly as it should; the only difference is that when you're not inside an app, and are in the BlackBerry Hub, the running apps screen or the home screen (where installed apps are displayed), swiping left and right will cycle you through these screens.

Two finger swipe up

This is only applicable to devices without hardware keyboards that are running the BlackBerry 10 OS. If you want to show the on-screen keyboard at any time, all you need to do is swipe up from the bezel using two fingers. Swiping down with two fingers minimises the keyboard again.

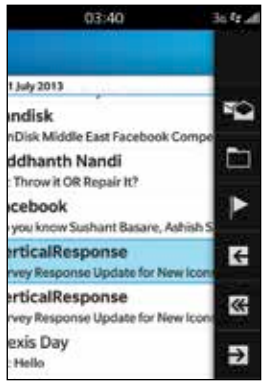
Other actions

Tap

Like with any other touchscreen device you've ever used, tapping on an item launches / opens it, or if it's an item that cannot be opened, selects it.

Hold down

If you hold down your finger on an item, instead of tapping on it, you can bring up options on what you want to do with it. So, for example, when you're in your email pane, and see a list of emails, you can hold down your finger on an email to bring up the context menu. This will allow you to quickly select actions such as Mark as Read, Move to a Folder, Flag, Reply, Delete, Select More, etc. You can get a more comprehensive list of actions when you tap on the three vertical dots icon (more options?) on the bottom right of the screen.



Hold down on a list item to see menu options on the right

Pinch and zoom

Like any other touch screen device these days, place two fingers on the screen and pinch them together to zoom out, and spread them apart to zoom in.

Moving app icons

Again, like with any other popular touch OS out there, just hold down a finger on an app icon till it starts shaking (or pulsating, in the BlackBerry 10 OS), and drag it about the screen to re-order. If you want to move it to another screen, just drag it to the left or right bezel (depending on where you want to move it), and next screen will slide in. Once you've moved the icon to the desired place, just let go.

Hold down an icon till it starts pulsating, then move it. Watch for the blue bars to indicate where ut will snap in place

Grouping apps or icons

Once again, nothing really new here; if you want to group two icons or apps together, just hold down on one of them till they all start pulsating, and drag it on

top of the other app / icon you want to group it with. The OS will automatically group them together in a new folder, and offer up a suggested name that you can change right at the start. To add more icons / apps to this new folder, repeat the action, but this time, drop the icon you're moving on to the folder.

Lock / unlock

To lock the screen when active, or to unlock the screen, just press the power button on the top once.

Restart

Hold down the power button for a bit till you see a new black screen. Tap on the Restart icon to restart. If you get here by mistake, just press and release the power button to go back, or tap on the Cancel icon.

Power down

To turn off the phone, press and hold the power button, and you will see a 3 second countdown. If you hold the power button down until this countdown completes, the phone will power off.

Select multiple

Hold down your finger on any list item (email, pictures, songs, etc) and when the context menu pops up, tap on Select More. Now just scroll and tap on as many items on the list as you want to select. Once done, you can perform whatever actions are available in the context menu – delete, share, mark as read, etc., depending on what list you're viewing of course.

Selecting multiple things

Show the menu

Often, when you're scrolling down (swiping up) through long lists (such as emails), you will find that the menu that's normally at the bottom of the screen disappears. This is a feature to give you more screen real estate when scrolling (and less distracting icons and menus). If you want to bring back the bottom menu band, just stop scrolling down, and swipe your finger ever so slightly downwards to bring back the menu.

BlackBerry Hub

The BlackBerry Hub has been designed to be your one stop place to get all of your updates and notifications. Included in the list by default are BBM, Text Messages, all the e-mail accounts that have been setup on the device, Facebook, Twitter, Google Talk, WhatsApp (if you've installed it), and any other apps that use the BlackBerry Hub to send you updates or notifications.

This is different from other platforms, and honestly we like it a lot, because it makes it easier to see what updates your phone has received, without having to go through multiple apps. Thus, if you received BBM chats, many emails across your multiple accounts, WhatsApp messages, Facebook likes and Twitter mentions, you'd usually have to tap in and out of multiple applications to read every update, email, chat or notification. With BlackBerry Hub, you can just choose to view all of them together (sorted by when they were received; latest first). This saves a heck of a lot of time, more than you realise actually, because you can quickly scan through things at a glance and decide what needs action right now, what can wait, and what you can just delete or ignore.

The Z10 displaying the peek into the Hub function on BlackBerry 10

Take an example of your significant other chatting away with you on WhatsApp. You may forget to keep a check on your email, and obviously, given the amount of email you receive, you have no notification settings for email. This is usually not a problem, but what if you're also expecting an email from your boss? With the BlackBerry hub, all you need to do is keep your email pane open, and from within WhatsApp, just keep peeking into the hub

to see what's new. You can also keep the Hub itself (all notifications listed) open and keep peeking over from whatever app you have running.

You can also customise the Hub to not show certain updates. Such as personal email, BBM chats, text messages, etc. Just go to the hub settings (the three vertical dots on the bottom-right > Settings > Hub Management). Just turn the various options On or Off as per your choice.

Go to Settings > Display and Actions. Here you can select to view items as conversations (good for keeping track of email threads), change how things are displayed (Name, Subject or Subject, Name). You will also see options to display message counts, new message indicators, show filed messages and sent messages, whether to confirm on delete, etc. Use these settings to customise the way your Hub behaves.

You can also quickly add more email accounts from within the Hub. Just go to Settings > Email Accounts, and click on the @+ button at the bottom of the screen. To modify settings of any existing email accounts, just tap on the account you want to modify. You can change signature settings, set up out of office replies, and if you click the edit button (pencil icon at the bottom) you can even tweak advanced server settings, and select how often the device checks for email (if push mail is not supported for the account), etc.

BlackBerry 10 keyboard

This only applies to the on screen keyboard on the Z10, and not the hardware keyboards on the Q10 and Q5, obviously.

The BlackBerry 10 onscreen keyboard is a pretty decent implementation. It's pretty intuitive, and helps you along the way using word substitutions and autocorrect as well.

You can just tap on a text field and the keyboard will come up from the bottom automatically. You can also bring up the keyboard at any time by using two fingers to swipe from the bottom bezel of the screen upwards

The on-screen keyboard on the Z10

towards the centre. The reverse action (swiping down with two fingers) will minimise the keyboard. You can also minimise the keyboard by holding your finger on the space bar for a couple of seconds.

Keyboard tips

- Quickly delete a word by swiping across the keyboard from right to left. The word to the left of the cursor is deleted.
- Swipe down from the top of the keyboard with a single finger to change the keyboard view to text, symbols or numbers (depending on the current view).
- Hold down the shift key to change the keyboard to CAPS lock.
- To add special accented characters such as when writing déjà vu, you can hold down the key in question (E to get é, for example) and then slide your finger to the desired accented character when it appears and release your finger.
- While typing, you will see suggested words appearing on different onscreen keys. These suggested words can help you type a lot faster. All you need to do to type out the suggested word is to swipe up from the letter in question – in an action that's similar to flicking the word to the screen. For example, when you want to type out the sentence, "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog." All you need to do is type "T ~h~ ~q~ ~b~ ~f~ ~j~ ~o~ ~t~ ~l~ ~d~", where the "~h~" signifies a swipe up from the letter H. As you can see, this means you can type out the sentence a lot quicker than normal.
- Touch and hold the full stop key to start voice dictation. Not really ideal for the Indian accent, but if you speak clearly without using too much Indian colloquialism, it can do a pretty decent job.
- Autocorrect is a little different from the suggested words. If the

The Autocorrect feature

OS thinks you've made a mistake, such as when you've typed "Wht", it will show the word "Why" over the space bar. All you have to so is swipe upwards from the space bar to autocorrect the word.

- The keyboard also learns more about you as you go, so it will get better at suggestions as the days go by.
- In the keyboard settings, you can turn on (or off) more of this assistance. For example, you can turn on Auto capitalize to automatically capitalise every word after a full stop. The same applies for other settings, such as Auto Correct, enabling the Period Shortcut (which is basically automatically adding a full stop when you press the space bar twice) and allowing the keyboard to learn (Use Learned Words).

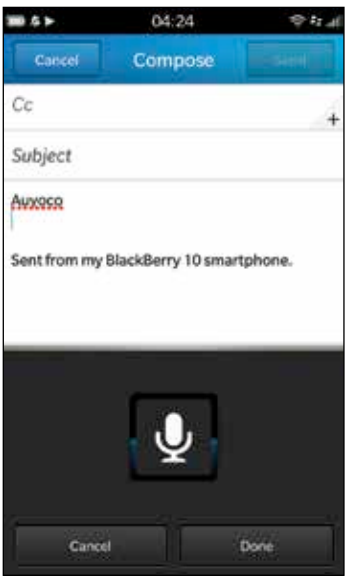
Voice control

To start with, we should tell you that voice control works best in a quiet environment, and you probably don't want to use it when other people are around. You certainly don't want to be that crazy person who talks to their phone, and you may not want to dictate that personal message to your significant other in front of the boss. This applies to all modern generation phones with voice control, not just the BlackBerry's we're talking about here.

With BlackBerry 10, you can use voice control to accomplish quite a few tasks – making a call, searching the net, sending messages (BBM, email or text), setting reminders, posting to Facebook or Twitter, etc. In order to do so, all you need to do is press the Action / Mute button on the right of the phone. This is the button between the volume up and down buttons.

When you hold this button for a few seconds, you get into the voice control screen. All you have to do now is use the commands to accomplish your task.

Call <name> will place a call to <name>, but the OS will ask you to confirm if it's doing the right action. Sometimes the results can be a little



Voice control on BlackBerry 10

hilarious, depending on the name of the person you're trying to call, your accent, and of course the inbuilt speech recognition engine. It's a nice feature to get some laughs out of when you're bored, but can be pretty useful when your attention is elsewhere. You'll be tempted to use the feature when driving, but we strongly advise against doing so. For one it's illegal in India to make calls when driving, and secondly, no call or commute is important enough to try doing both at once – either pull over, or call later.

Settings

You can get to the settings menu in two ways: you can swipe down from the top bezel when not inside an app to open the quick settings menu and then click on settings, or you can just click on the Settings icon in the list of apps on your phone. Here we'll run you through most of the options you will find under Settings, and explain what each one does.

About

Put simply, this is all the information you'd want to know about your phone. Click on About and you will be taken to a screen that shows you all the general information about your phone. At the top you will see a drop down menu in which Category – General is already selected. Inside this drop-down you have the following options:

The About screen

Hardware

Here you will be shown information such as your BlackBerry Pin, IMEI number, amount of storage and memory, battery status, etc.

OS

Here you will get information about the OS version, Adobe AIR and Flash versions, etc

Network

This shows you information about the networks you're connected to such as IP address in IPV4 and IPV6.

SIM Card

This is where you will find your SIM ID, network provider's name and your cell number.

Legal

If you want to real all the legal jargon you're agreeing to when buying this device, or all the copyright notices, this is the place to do so.

Regulatory Approvals

More stuff you're never going to be interested in, such as the approval registration of the governing bodies in the US, Europe and Canada.

Network Connections

Like the name suggests, you can control all the settings for all the various types of connections that your phone can make, including cellular, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, NFC and more.

Flight Mode

All new age smartphones need to have this mode to allow them to be used during a flight. If you turn flight mode on, what you're doing is basically turning all wireless antennae off, so that the phone neither sends nor receives any data wirelessly, and thus cannot interfere with an aircraft's control systems.

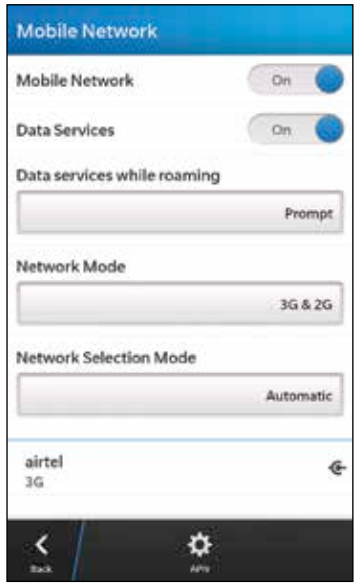
Mobile Network

Clicking on the mobile network takes you to settings that you can change for the way your phone connects to the mobile network. These include:

- **Mobile Network:** turn the mobile network on or off using the slider
- **Data Services:** turn data services on or off. Off will mean you can get phone calls and SMSes, but you cannot use any service that requires an internet connection.
- **Data services while roaming:** When roaming outside your home network, you may be billed excessively for roaming data charges. You can avoid this by changing this setting to Off.
- **Network Mode:** This basically specifies the various types of networks you want to connect to. These include LTE (4G), HSPA+/UMTS (3G) and GSM (2G). Here you can choose to allow your phone to connect using 4G+3G+2G, 3G+2G, 4G+3G, 3G only, or 2G only. Remember, 3G and 4G

speeds are certainly desirable, but the extra drain on battery life they cause may not be. Your phone will last a lot longer if you stick to 2G networks. You can always come back to this setting and switch up to 3G when you're surfing.

- **Network Selection Mode:** As with all phones, smart or dumb, you can choose whether you want to let the phone decide which network is best to switch to, or you can manually override the limited wisdom of your phone. In areas/cities of strong coverage, Automatic works best, while if your phone keeps going out of range, Manual is a better choice to preserve a bit of battery life. Manual is also good when roaming, and often one roaming network is more expensive than the other.



Mobile Network options

- **Settings:** At the bottom of the screen you will see the gear icon that denotes "Settings" in this OS. Clicking this takes you to the APN settings screen. The APN (access point name) tells your phone which access point to connect to in order to send and receive data. Some mobile networks might require you to add a username and password for their APN, in which case this is where you'd do that.
- **Favourites:** You will also see a star next to the settings icon. Clicking it will take you to the Preferred Mobile Networks screen. Here you will be shown all the networks that your phone thinks it can connect to, ordered by preference. You can manually change the order of preference here, delete a preferred network, or even add a new one. You can also click on the More button (three dots placed vertically, or three horizontal lines) to view the details for the network that's selected from the list.

Notifications

One of the first things we should tell you here, especially if you're already a BlackBerry user, is that BlackBerry 10.1, so far, has no way to add a custom

notification profile. Thus, you're going to have to make do with the default profiles – Normal, Phone calls only, Vibrate Only, Silent and All Alerts Off. You can edit these profiles to suit your preferences, of course, but the ability to add a custom notification profile is sorely missed by all long term BlackBerry users. We've spoken to BlackBerry about this, and complain on a regular basis to all their representatives we ever meet. Make sure you also drop them a mail demanding that this simple yet very useful feature returns in future OS updates.

When you enter the Notifications screen, you will see the 'Mode' that's currently selected with a description below it. You can toggle things on and off, such as Sound, Vibrate and LED. However, you cannot do this for all profiles, or "Modes". For example, in the Vibrate Only mode, you cannot turn sound on, or cannot turn Vibrate off. This sort of cripples you into using the Normal mode only, and having to modify that to suit just one single preference.

We're stressing this point because, for example, you could have two or three almost identical profiles earlier (BlackBerry OS 5 to 7) which had only a couple of minor differences. For example, this writer used to have three custom-made subsets of the 'Normal' profile – the first would beep or ring for everything (SMSes, calls, BBMs, WhatsApp messages, Calendar reminders, etc.) as a Normal mode, the second would do all the same, but ring and beep a lot louder (for when I was outdoors, so traffic noise wouldn't drown out notifications), and a third which only rang or beeped for calls, calendar reminders and SMSes, but vibrated for BBM and WhatsApp messages (for when at work). With the current OS, forget about being able to accomplish that, and remember to blame BlackBerry 10 if this writer seems to be ignoring your calls or SMSes!

Scroll down in the Notifications screen to see all the different options available:

- **Phone:** Lets you set the notification of your choice for when you get phone calls
- **BBM Video:** Set how the phone tells you when you receive a BBM Video call
- **Email Messages:** Allows you to set a notification (if you want one) for when you receive email
- **BBM:** What your phone does when you get a BBM chat
- **Text Messages:** The beep or vibration settings when you get an SMS
- **Reminders:** What you hear when your phone reminds you of a task from your calendar

- **Facebook / Twitter / LinkedIn / Foursquare:** Social networking updates
- **Other Applications:** Here you will get to choose how the phone informs you of notifications from Blackberry World, Browser, Games, Google Talk, Maps, PIN messages, Print to Go, and Skype, WhatsApp, etc (if you install them)

Main Volume

Quite a simple little option in the Settings menu; all this does is allow you to choose the default speaker volume of any media you might play. Drag the slider to the desired volume (would be better if the device made a sound so you knew how loud you were getting), and also choose whether to enable Music Shortcuts and the Always Adjust Media Volume setting, which basically adjusts the volume of media and the notifications so you can control what happens when you get a notification while listening to music or watching a movie.

Accounts

Pretty simple option in settings again; this setting lets you add, edit or delete all the accounts you have on the phone that need a sign-in. This includes your email accounts (with or without calendar syncing), Facebook, Twitter, Google Talk, etc.

Tap on an account name to see additional settings for that account. If you tap on an email account for instance, you get advanced settings such as Description, Display Name, POP Server Address, Port, Encryption, the same settings for the SMTP server, and the option to use Push (if supported), and to set the Sync Interval – which basically tells your phone how long to wait before checking for new emails. You will also see a Folder Settings button, which you can tap on and then configure which folders (from your webmail) are synced to your phone.

Display

All screen controls for your BlackBerry fall under this setting option. You can change the wallpaper here and also set the system-wide font size that's used (range 5 point to 18 point). We only recommend 5 point size for those with ultra sharp eyesight, and anything above 12 point for those who usually need reading glasses. We've found that the sweet spot for most people lies between 6 and 9 point.

You can also set the number of minutes after which the screen automatically locks. This is not just to save battery life, but also to secure your phone.

You can also select whether Gestures are allowed when the screen is locked, whether or not pressing the power button unlocks the phone. Remember to add in emergency contact details under the "Message displayed on locked screen" option, especially if you use a password. If something happened to you, and someone found you lying on a road somewhere (if your rather expensive phone hasn't already been stolen out of your cold, lifeless hands), at least they'd know who to inform about your misfortune. You will also find the HDMI control here, which will be activated only when you connect your phone to a large display using the mini HDMI port on the left of the phone. Basically, you can select whether to output phone audio over the HDMI connection, or not.

Language and Input

On this screen, you can select the language (and dictionary) that's used on the phone, which region you're from (so that the phone can use the preset date currency and number format for your country) and whether to use the metric or imperial measurement system. You can also set the language used when typing (autocorrect and suggestions will be based on this, so don't choose Chinese or Japanese unless you want to have a good laugh. The Prediction and Correction setting will allow you to choose whether or not to show predictions, if the phone should allow autocorrect using the spacebar, and more features we've spoken of earlier in the keyboard section – such as Auto-Capitalise, Period Shortcut and Learn New Words.

Word Substitution is a handy setting here, and what it does is allow you to just type "bb <space>" and the phone autocorrects to "BlackBerry". You can also add more abbreviations that you use here; for example, if you often find yourself typing out your office address to send to people, you can just add that as a shortcut here. For us, typing "offaddy <space>" would output "B-201/202, Arjun Centre, Govandi Station road, Govandi east, Mumbai 400088." So much easier, isn't it?

Voice Control

We've spoken of voice control earlier in this chapter. The settings screen allows you to choose between Full Voice Recognition and Voice Dialling Only, which basically means you can turn off the voice recognition for everything except dialling numbers. This will make the Voice Control more accurate, and it will always ask who you want to call instead of waiting for or trying to understand other command inputs. However, you will not be

able to say things such as "Update Facebook", for example, if you turn the phone to Voice dialling Only mode.

You can also change the default language used here, Hear voice feedback, allow or deny "Offensive Words", and Enable Dictation.

BlackBerry Link

We'll go in-depth into BlackBerry Link a little later in this book, but what you need to know right now is that this is the replacement of the older BlackBerry Desktop Manager. You can sync your phone and PC, even wirelessly, or access files on the PC with your phone. The settings you can adjust here are: Turn BlackBerry Link on or off, Edit Name (change what your device is called), Use Mobile Network allows your device to use a 3G connection to connect to your home PC (didn't work for us, though). It works when on the same Wi-Fi network.

BlackBerry ID

In order to use BlackBerry services, you need to create a BlackBerry ID. This is usually done as soon as you fire up your new phone, where you get an option to either create a new one or sign-in with your existing ID. In this settings menu you can view your BlackBerry ID details, and change your password and recovery question.

BlackBerry Protect

We'll detail the BlackBerry Protect service later in this book. For now, all you need to know is that this is where you can turn on or turn off the service.

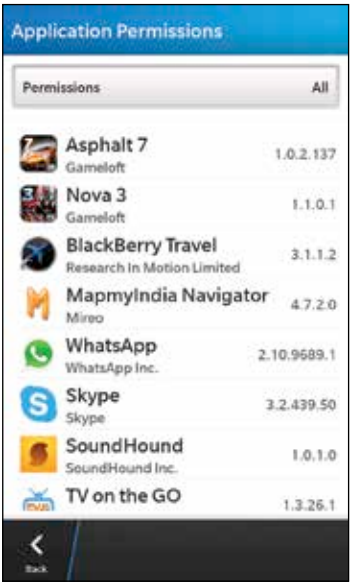
Security and Privacy

This is where you set various settings such as Application Permissions, passwords, etc. We'll detail each setting below:

Application Permissions

Here you will see the list of applications installed on your phone, and can tap on each application to see what permissions they have. You can also filter the list as per various permission types. The filters you can apply are, All, Phone, Connect to BBM, Text Messages, Contacts, Email and PIN Messages, Device Identifying Information, Internet, Microphone, Shared Files, GPS Location, Camera and Location. So what this means is, if you want to see what apps have access to your GPS Location, you can select that from

the dropdown. You can then quickly change permissions



Application permissions

Device Password

Here you can set a password for your phone, and also set the time period of inactivity after which the device locks. You should enable the Allow Apps to Extend Password Lock Time, so that the device doesn't lock while, say, you're watching a video or a YouTube video in your browser.

SIM Card

Here you can add your phone number, if it's not already added from your service provider. You can PIN lock your SIM with SIM PIN 1 and SIM PIN 2 codes. No one really uses this anymore, but in case you do, now you know how to do it. The Phone Network Lock status tells you whether your phone or SIM is locked to the network or not.

Encryption

For added security of your personal data, you can encrypt your device and media card. This will ensure that if you ever lose your phone, and someone takes out the media card, they will not be able to access any of the data stored on it without knowing the correct password and having your specific device (which needs to be unlocked with you password, again). Remember, however, that if you wipe your phone without turning the encryption off for the media card, then all data on it might become unusable.

Parental Controls

If this is a phone for your child, you can turn on Parental Controls. When you do, you will be asked to set a password, and then you can choose to only let contacts saved in the phone call or text your child. You can also choose whether you want your child to have access to various features. The options available are: Camera and Video Features, Browser, Twitter,

Facebook, YouTube, Email Account Setup, Location Information, Purchase Content, Install Application, Remove Application, BlackBerry World (and additional content restrictions under BlackBerry World). You can turn any one of the previous ones on or off.

Diagnostics

Here you can set whether to allow BlackBerry to collect diagnostics and usage data to help them improve their products. If you're unsure about whether to enable this or not, read their privacy terms at *http://us.blackberry.com/legal.* They usually collect data pertaining to the status of your device, battery performance, bad network areas, the apps you use, how you interact with various types of media, the approximate location of your phone and any errors you encounter.

Security Wipe

If you want to get rid of your phone, or just want to completely wipe out all personal data for some reason, you can use this setting to delete everything – including apps, email accounts, and all other personal data. All you need to do is type "blackberry" into the text field and then tap on Delete Data. Remember, if you've enabled media card encryption, remember to turn it off before doing this, or else you will render all the data on your media card useless.

Certificates

In case you're interested in knowing what security certificates your BlackBerry stores (why you'd want to, we don't know), you can do that here. Just tap on a certificate to view details about it.

Development Mode

In case you're a developer, and want to be able to upload any applications you're developing to the device to test them, you will have to enable Devel-

Development mode

opment Mode. This mode is automatically disabled when you reboot the device for security purposes, so you'll have to manually turn it on after every reboot. You will be asked for your device password when you enable it.

Media Sharing

Your BlackBerry 10 phone is also a media sharing device that uses DLNA (Digital Living Network Alliance) (go to *www.dlna.org* for more information), to allow you to stream media to any DLNA compatible player. From this setting, you can choose to Share Music, Share Pictures, Share Videos, and change your device name. You can also select which devices to share the media with. However, you cannot make private folders for music, pictures and videos that you don't want to share, so remember that all media will be shared with any authorised device.

Date and Time

Use this setting to adjust the date and time settings of your phone. The various settings available here are:

Time Zone

You can easily set your time zone here. Kolkata (+5.5) is the setting for India.

Auto Update Time Zone

Turn this On to allow your phone to update to the network time zone automatically. When you travel abroad, this will update your time zone based on your location, and you won't have to worry about your phone still running on India time – unless you actually prefer it that way, in which case turn this setting off.

24-Hour Time

Set this to use 1300 hours instead of 1 PM.

Set Date and Time Automatically

Turn this on to auto-update the date and time based on the mobile network provider's time.

Software Updates

In order to make sure you are running the latest version of the device software, you can go to this setting and click Check for Updates. However, remember

that this setting check's your network provider's database. In the past we've had to put in a SIM card of an operator such as Airtel or Vodafone to get the latest updates. This is why someone else with the same phone can have a newer update than you.

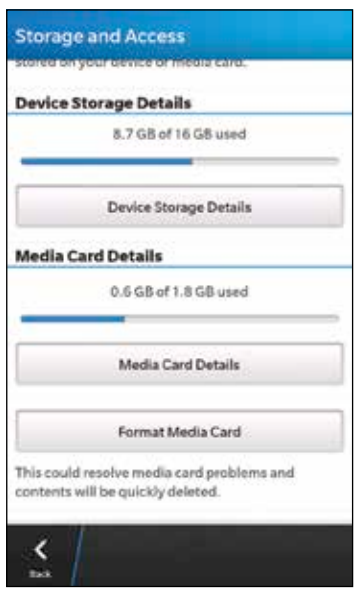
Search

Here you can set the search settings of your phone's Universal Search feature. You can choose to delete the history by tapping on Delete Search History, or just turn it off, so the device doesn't store any search history. If you click on Categories, you can select which categories are searched. Also, you can change the order in which the categories are searched – just hold down a category and move it up or down in the list. If you don't want your searches to index any of the categories, just uncheck them. You can do the same for the Extended search categories that are listed.

Storage and Access

This is the place where you control how the storage system is managed, check the details of your device storage and more. The first setting is USB Connections, and you can set how you connect to your PC. Usually Autodetect is ideal for this setting, but if you encounter any problems while connecting to a Windows or Mac PC, you can choose the Connect to Windows or Connect to Mac settings accordingly.

Software (OS) updates



Storage and Access

You can also set your device to connect to your PC over Wi-Fi by turning on the Access using Wi-Fi option. This will enable you to connect to your BlackBerry Link software (more on this later) when your PC and phone are on the same Wi-Fi network. In order to allow this you will need to set a password, which you can do using the next option – Change Wi-Fi Storage Password. You can also set the Identification on Network setting to select what your device appears as on the network.

The next option you can click is Device Storage Details, and tapping this will give you additional details of how your storage is utilised.

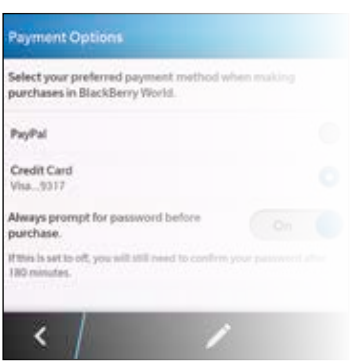
If you want your media card to show up as a USB device when you connect it to your PC, just turn the slider under Media Card Details to "On".

Location Services

You can change the setting for your phone's location services here. You can turn the GPS device off by turning Location Services off. You can also set whether you want data for traffic (which doesn't really work well here in India anyway) and whether you want location-based advertisements.

Payment Options

Here you can store PayPal or credit card information to be able to make purchases on BlackBerry World. You will need to login with your BlackBerry ID first, and then you will be able to add / edit the desired information. We've found a small bug with the Payment Options setting, and sometimes you just get a message that says your phone cannot connect to the payment server. All you need to do to fix this is go to BlackBerry World, find an app, game or music that's not free, click buy, and then when it prompts you for your password DO NOT enter it (or you'll be billed), and just click cancel. Now when you go back to the Payment Options, you should be prompted there for your BlackBerry ID password again, and after you enter it you will be able to view/edit your stored credit card and PayPal details.



Payment options

Accessibility

Here you can turn on the Magnify Mode, which will allow you to zoom

into any screen, any menu, any page or any icon, even on the home screen. The two-finger pinch to zoom out and vice versa works here, though since this is just a magnification, tapping to select also works. Usually you use one finger to pan around a screen, such as in the browser, or when using a map application, but when zoomed in using Magnify Mode, you need to use two fingers on the screen to pan about, because all of the touchable items such as menus, icons, etc., remain clickable – tapping on an icon in zoom mode still launches the item (and launches it with the same zoom level you've gone to using Magnify). Basically, the Magnify Mode is a system wide zoom to specified co-ordinates of the entire screen, and theoretically you could permanently run the OS and apps in zoom mode. When you have reached maximum zoom ability, you are notified with three short vibrations.

Turning on Magnify mode to zoom in on any screen anywhere in the OS

You can quickly get to the brightness and font settings using the Display Settings shortcut provided on this screen. You can also turn on Hearing Aid Mode for those who are hearing impaired – providing you have compatible hearing aid devices. Similarly, if you have a teletypewriter (TTY) you can turn TTY Mode on here and then connect to your TTY device. A TTY is basically a device that hearing or speech impaired people can connect to their phones, and read or type out messages from and to others with TTYs. This allows them to communicate over a phone, despite not being able to hear or speak.

ACCOMPLISHING EVERYDAY TASKS

In this chapter we'll look at how you accomplish most tasks within the BlackBerry 10 OS, and also how to use all of the default apps that come loaded out of the box

Part of getting to know any new OS is learning how to do everyday tasks on it. In this chapter we'll look at what you can do, and how, with your new BlackBerry 10 phone, right out of the box. With any new OS, things can change, and for instance, the very first time you receive a call, you might not know how how answer it, or updating calendar entries can be a little daunting...

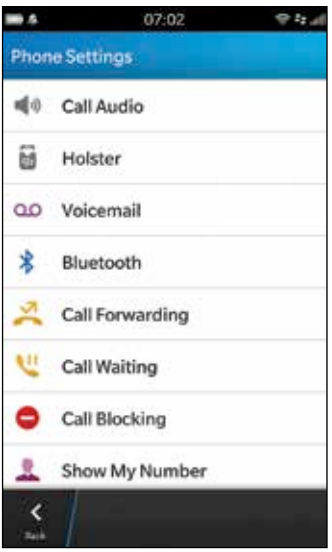
Making calls

It is a phone after all! With BlackBerry 10, there are three or four ways in which you can make a call.

The phone app

On the home screen itself you will see the phone icon on the bottom left corner of the screen. Tapping this brings up the phone app. On the top you'll see two tabs – All and Missed. By default the phone app opens in the All view, which basically shows all the numbers you have received calls from or made calls to (including missed calls). If the person you're trying to contact is in this list, just tap the name and a call is initiated. At the bottom you will see three tabs – Calls, Contacts and Dialling Pad.

If the person you're trying to call is not on the calls list, you can click on the Contacts tab. Now you can either enter the person's name in the Search field (recommended) or just keep scrolling down through your contacts till you reach the one you want. Either way, when you see the contact you want, you tap on the name, a sub-menu opens up with two basic options – View Details and all of the numbers for that contact listed. You just need to tap on the number of choice and the call is placed.



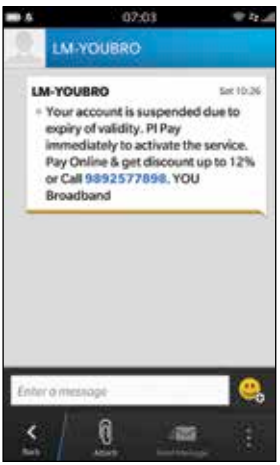
If you know the number you're calling, you can just bring up the Dial Pad by clicking on the third tab on the bottom, and you will see a standard on-screen phone dialler. Just tap out the number and click on the green Call button that's on your screen.

The keyboard

You can bring up the on-screen keyboard on the Z10 using the two finger swipe-up method we've talked about before, or in the case of the Q10/Q5 you can just use the hardware keyboard to start typing a number anywhere. The universal search will keep throwing up suggestions from your contact list that match the number you are dialling, and you can just select one from there if that's person you're trying to contact, or keep typing out the number and then clicking the first option that's shown to you – Call <number>.

From inside messages

When you receive a number in an SMS, email, chat, or basically see any number on your screen (in the browser, for example), if BlackBerry 10 is able to identify it as a number, it will show in blue like a hyperlink. Tapping on this hyperlink will bring up options – Copy, Call, Send Text Message, View Contact and Share. From this menu, just click Call, and your call will be placed.



The hardware keyboard

This only applies to the Q10 for now (and the Q5 presumably), because they have hardware keyboards. You can just start typing out a number as we mentioned earlier. You can also use smart commands, and type out "call <name>" and then click on the name that shows up. If it's not someone in your contact list, you can just type "call <number> and the phone will automatically suggest that you call the number. Press the Enter key and your call will be placed.

Contacts

The Contacts app is available on the first home screen. Click on it and your contact list opens. By default, the list view is shown, and you can choose to search the list by clicking on the search icon (magnifying glass). Clicking on that will let you search for a contact. To add a new contact, you click on the Add Contact icon. Here you can tap on any of the fields – including the picture icon – to add details about the new contact that you're adding. By default, you can add a picture, First Name, Last Name, Company Name,

Phone Number (mobile), Email Address, BlackBerry PIN, Street Address and Social Accounts. If you want to add fields, you will see an Add Field icon at the bottom. Clicking on it will allow you to add more fields, such as Name Details, Company Details, Phone Number, Fax, Pager, IM, Birthday, etc.

When adding a contact, you can also set custom Ringtone and Notifications. This way you can set a specific ringtone for a person, and you can add more ringtones by saving them on your media card. We suggest you get a few, because the default ones on BB 10 are just not good or diverse enough.

Another very important feature that's missing, which was there in the older BBOS, is the ability to bypass profile restrictions. For example, say you've set your phone to silent or vibrate only, yet you want to be notified properly about your boss, significant other, parents, etc., calling you. With the older BBOS, you were able to do so, but with BlackBerry 10 (we're currently running 10.1.0.2309), while you can set custom ringtones, it's the selected profile that dictates what notification is used. So, if you set your phone to vibrate, it's not going to ring when any of these important contacts call you. A comment on Crackberry.com said it best: "If I wanted a dumb smartphone, I'd have bought the iPhone 5!" We hope BlackBerry will fix all these niggles and bring back the power user tweaks that really set them apart from the rest before. Thankfully BlackBerry 10.2 is around the corner, and we're hoping that will fix some of these issues.

Overall, the Contacts app on BlackBerry phones has always been excellent, and it's still pretty good on BlackBerry 10. Apart from the complaint we listed earlier, there are no other major complaints we have with this feature.

Your BlackBerry phone also links contacts together when you sync from different sources – say your email, your phonebook, BBM and Facebook, for instance. If you have a contact that is on some or all of these contact lists, instead of getting three or four different contacts, your BlackBerry links them all together into a single listed contact with three or four different sources (links). Of course, software being software, it might miss out on a few, especially when the specific contact has listed different details on

the various contact lists – say, a different phone number and address on Facebook than what's on your phone. In such a case, just tap on one of the contacts, then tap on the Link icon on the bottom, then click on the add link icon on the bottom, and select the other contact you want to link with. In case you want to separate the links a contact has, you can do that as well in this same screen. Where all the links are displayed, you will see an Unlink button next to each linked contact. Just unlink the ones you want to, and they will now be stored as separate contacts.

To view different contact lists, in the default Contacts screen, on the bottom left you will see a menu icon. By default All (All Contacts) are displayed. You can choose to go through your contacts based on the list they belong to – All, Favourite Contacts, BBM Video Contacts, BBM Contacts, Facebook Friends, Twitter Follows and SIM Card Contacts. This list may be slightly different based on what contact lists you're syncing with – for example if you choose to sync contacts with your email IDs, etc.

Calendar

The BlackBerry Calendar is you way of organising yourself, and making sure you don't miss meetings, birthdays, anniversaries, and general work reminders. By default, when you add an account – email or Facebook – you get the option to sync calendar events with your phone's calendar; we highly recommend you do so. Facebook gives you a lot of personal reminders about your friends and keeps your social life active – such as warning you when it's their birthday, anniversary, or when you accepted an invitation to an event, etc. Your email, especially your work email, will have a calendar that is supposed to remind you of appointments, meetings, delivery deadlines, etc. You can also add additional calendars to your BlackBerry Calendar app, so long as they are in CalDAV (*http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CalDAV)* format (basically using iCal data or the .ics file format).

With a lot of business email, and the majority of personal email addresses that we use being Gmail accounts, BlackBerry usually links up very well with Gmail for its calendar functionality. When you add the email account to your BlackBerry, and agree to sync calendar at the prompt, you automatically start receiving calendar updates. To do this, go to Settings and click on Accounts. Click Add Account, enter the logon details, and tap Next. You will get a screen asking you what to Sync – Email, Calendar, Contacts. If Calendar is selected, you will automatically get updates to your Phone. In case your calendar is hosted online, but not part of an email address, you can go to Settings and click on Accounts, select Add Account, and look for the Advanced icon on the bottom (looks like two sliders). Select the CalDAV option, and then add the Description, Username, Email Address, Password and Server Address details. You can also change the interval between syncs – you can choose between the default settings of 5 minutes and 24 hours, or just choose Manual to sync only when you want to.

When you click on the Calendar app, you will be taken to the current date. This is usually in the day view, but you can choose to view your calendar in Day, Week or Month format. The Week view is ideal for most, but if you're super busy with multiple events happening at the same time, and more than two calendars syncing to your phone, you might want to stick with the day view.

In order to view details of a scheduled event, just click on the coloured bar that signifies the event. You will see additional details for that event, and if there's a phone number you're supposed to dial (for a conference call reminder, for example) you will get the option to join in directly.

Each calendar you have synced will have a distinct colour. You can set these colours by swiping down from the top bezel, choosing Settings, and then selecting Calendar Colours. Just tap on the different calendars and choose a colour you'll associate with that specific calendar. For example, for an important work calendar, you might want to

choose a shade of red, so you know reds are important. For Facebook, you might want to choose Facebook's own blue, to make it easier to associate a blue reminder as a Facebook one, etc.

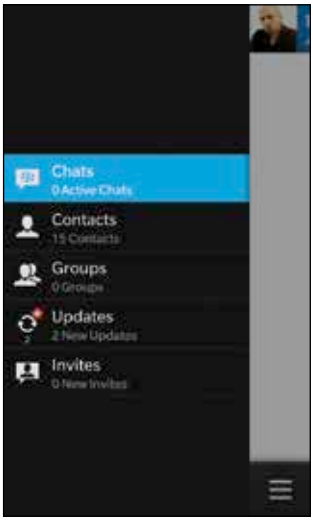
If you want to add an event from your phone itself, all you have to do is open the Calendar, go to the week or day view, and find the desired time slot and tap on the cell (like an Excel cell). You will see a coloured bar appear that's called "New event". This will be in the colour of your default calendar, but if you tap on this New event, you will open up a more detailed screen where you can change this. The first option, in fact, is to choose which calendar this event is stored on. Next you have to describe the event, so give it a name, and you can also add a location. Choose whether this is an all day event; if not add the start and end time, then choose if it's a recurring event (choices are None, Daily, Weekly, Monthly and Yearly). Next you choose whether you want to invite participants – if it's a meeting, you would invite the people you're meeting with, and the calendar will send them invitations, which they can accept or reject, and you will be notified of either those two actions. Next, choose how much before the event you want a reminder – options are: No reminder, At Start, 5/10/15/30/45 Minutes, 1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10/11/12/18 Hours, 1/2/3 Days or 1/2 Week(s) before the event. Choose to set your status as busy, and whether this is a private event or not – can everyone who has access to your calendar (usually colleagues in a work setting) see that you will be at this event; if you don't want anyone to know, set it to private. Click Save, and you're done. You can also just add an event to the day by clicking the + sign at the bottom, in case your zoom level is too small to be able to click accurately on a specific time.

Facebook reminders are usually birthdays and anniversaries, and those usually show up as all day events. By default, all day events show right at the top of the screen, before the first hour of the day. You might see a +2 or +3 on top. Clicking this will expand to show what those two or 3 all day events are.

When you click on an existing event, you have three tabs on the top. The default is the Details tab, which gives you details about the event. The next tab called People lists how many people are invited to this event, and the Emails tab is supposed to show emails about this event, but for us it always showed random emails from some of the people invited to this event, which is either a bug, or a pointless feature we haven't been able to figure out.

BlackBerry Messenger

BlackBerry Messenger, or BBM for short, was pretty much the biggest selling point for BlackBerry in India at one point. The ability to chat endlessly



at no extra cost, at a time when texting was hugely popular; plus the ability to share files, and chat securely with anyone across the globe (again at no extra cost) was just an unbeatable proposition a few years ago.

With BlackBerry OS 7, BBM was upgraded to be able to make voice calls (over Wi-Fi connections). With BlackBerry 10, BBM is equipped with the ability to make both voice and video calls, and over 3G networks, as well as Wi-Fi. BlackBerry have also announced that BBM will soon be available for Android and iOS as well, which will make it a messaging platform to be reckoned with, and is by far the most interesting development from BlackBerry. By the time you read this book, in fact, BBM for iOS and Android might already be available.

Currently, you need a BlackBerry ID on a BlackBerry phone to be able to use BBM. When you start up your new phone, and open BBM, you will automatically be prompted to get one, or to log in with an existing BlackBerry ID. Once this is done, you will be asked to either connect your BBM profile with a contact (yourself) or to save a new contact (again your own details). You can add a profile photo, and will be prompted to add a profile name (nickname that others see). Once all of this is done, you're ready to start chatting.

You can invite people using their email address, phone number or BlackBerry PIN.

By default, BBM opens to recent chats. The first time, though it will open to your blank BBM contact list, and suggest you add more. Using the menu on the bottom left you can toggle between Chats, Contacts, Groups, Updates and Invites.

On the Contacts screen, just tap on a person to start a chat. You have all the standard options here, including a list of emoticons you can include in your text. At the bottom of the chat window you have a few icons. The first is the Invite More button, which allows you to add more people to this chat, and thus have a group conversation. This is different from Groups,

which are basically groups of people starting a group chat that you can be a part of. You can also attach any files present on your device such as videos, pictures and documents. In the additional settings menu (3 vertical dots) you will see options to send a Ping (which is basically an alert that vibrates the other BBM user's phone), Copy Chat, Email Chat and End Chat. Apart from this, in the main conversation screen you will see an icon on the top right. This will either be grey or green in colour. This icon is either a voice (musical note) or a video icon, depending on whether the contact you're chatting with has an OS 6/7 or BlackBerry 10 phone. Those who have BBOS 6/7 phones can have voice conversations with you, and those with BlackBerry 10 phones can have either voice or video chats with you. When the person is available, connected to Wi-Fi or 3G, the icon will be green, while if they're not, the icon is grey.

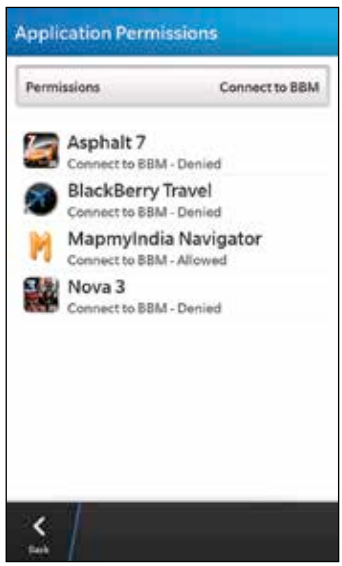
In any BBM screen, you can swipe down from the top bezel of the screen to show the settings menu. You will see the standard Help icon, a Scan to Invite icon that lets you scan other BBM users' QR code to invite them and the Settings icon. The settings available for BBM include the ability to turn on or off: Show What I'm Listening To, Show My Country and Time, Allow BBM Calls over Mobile Networks (using 3G/4G), Contacts Layout (Grid or List), Show Display Pictures in Chats, Automatically Record Voice Notes, Add Contacts On Tap, Security Question on Invites, Music Status Updates, Save Chat History, Chat History Delete (button), and Blocked Contacts Edit (button). All of these ought to be pretty self explanatory.

We would have liked the option to be able to easily select whether or not you want to be available for BBM voice or video calls. As it stands, you can turn off the Allow BBM Calls over Mobile Networks feature to do this when on a mobile network, but you cannot do this when you're connected to Wi-Fi. Also, you might want to be able to group contacts and apply permissions based on that group, to be able to control who sees what, but you can't do that either. It's a rather simple solution in these rather complex social networking days, and BBM assumes that if you're connected to someone else on BBM, you want to share everything with them. For example, you might want to update your status and show it only to your close friends and family, and not work people who are also on your BBM. Currently, you cannot do this unless you also have an enterprise account for your work, and those are few and far between already. You may want to be available for video calls to a certain group, voice calls to another, and not available for anything but chat to a third group, and again you cannot do this. These are some of the

tweaks we hope to see in upcoming OS updates from BlackBerry, especially now that with the QNX platform, the devices are certainly capable of such advanced functionality.

BBM connected apps

There is another aspect of BBM that BlackBerry is pushing, which is BBM Connected Apps. Though this actually launched with OS 7/7.1, it's only now that more apps are becoming available. This is basically some of your apps getting direct access to BBM, and being able to update your BBM automatically. Take for example the Facebook app; if you connect that to BBM, your BBM status will change automatically when you update your Facebook status. Not all apps work with statuses only though, and some may just connect with BBM to seamlessly allow you to send something as a BBM chat. Take BlackBerry Travel or Foursquare for example, where you can update plans on BBM, set any location you check into on Foursquare as a status, or the hotel you're staying at via BlackBerry Travel, etc. This keeps your friends up to date with what's happening with you, and you may get a few "I'm there too!" BBMs as well.



BBM Groups

From your BBM chat client, you can start or join a group. Say you have a lot of family on your BBM messenger. Using this Group function you can start a group and start chatting, sharing pictures, lists, make appointments, etc. Now in a family group, everyone might be on everyone else's contact list, so perhaps it seems a little similar to inviting people into a group chat. But what about, say, a group of people working on a project for work. These may be people who may or may not be on each other's lists, but need to stay connected for the duration of the project, and stay abreast with updates. A BBM Group is perfect for this, provided they all have BlackBerrys! It doesn't

have to be only work related, it could also be a group for your locality, say, something like starting out a simple group to get your roads cleaned, or for people who want to car-pool from one destination to another. You could publicise the group using Facebook and find people you never knew existed. Of course, there's a 30 member limit to a group, so it has to be small, and lends itself well to very specific groups with very specific needs and interests like we've mentioned above.

Camera

Let's face it, cameras on phones have not been a BlackBerry bastion; in fact, while we BlackBerry users were always keen to show off the power user features of our phones, we'd run and hide when the discussion would turn to camera quality. Now that with BB 10 the power user features seem to be a little limited, we're happy to report that the camera is a lot better. We certainly don't think it's the best camera out there, but at least you no longer have to run and hide.

The BlackBerry Z10 and Q10 both have an 8 megapixel rear camera, while the Q5 makes do with 5 megapixels, though the front camera on all three is 2 megapixels. Although you can take self-shot pictures and videos with the front camera, they're obviously not of a very high quality, and certainly not as good as the rear cameras.

By default, in BlackBerry 10, except when in the BlackBerry Hub or when running an app in full screen, you will see the phone icon on the bottom left of the screen, and the camera icon on the bottom right. In order to launch the camera, just click on the icon.

If you have a Z10, and if the rotation lock is off, you will be able to rotate your phone into landscape mode to take more natural pictures. Although the Q10 and Q5 also offer the ability to take widescreen photos and videos, it just looks odd on their 1:1 aspect ratio screens.

When you start up the Camera app for the first time, you will be asked where you want to save pictures (media card or phone memory). Just choose one based on your preference – but remember we recommend a class 10 memory card if you plan on shooting 1080p videos; at minimum the phone requires a class 4 card before it will let you shoot anything more than 720p when saving to memory card. If you're saving to phone memory, you will have no problems, except running out of space at some point.

Once in the Camera app, you will see some icons overlaid on the scene you're pointing the camera at. You will see the focus box, a camera icon

and the additional settings icon (three vertical dots). You will also see a thumbnail of the last photograph you clicked, and tapping on this will take you to your photo library.

First we'll look at the camera icon – it's basically a quick way of changing between the still camera, video camera, and what BlackBerry calls Time Shift Mode. The settings icon will display additional settings that you can change based on which of the aforementioned modes you've chosen. Let's look at the various modes and the settings associated with them.

Time Shift Mode

A lot of smartphone OSes offer such a feature now, and this basically lets the phone click a scene in a quick burst, and then allows you to swipe through the scene to select the best possible shot. The phone will automatically detect faces in the image, and then allow you to go through a short interval of captures to allow you to find the best still image for that face. You repeat this for all the visible faces, and then save your image. This helps a lot when you click a group picture and find that one (or more) people blinked just at the moment you clicked. Instead of putting everyone through the inconvenience of retaking the picture, you now just use Time Shift Mode to make sure you get a shot with everyone's eyes open. Understand that this is different from selecting a still from a video, for example, because in a video you could find that every frame has someone or the other blinking (eyes closed), and there'd be nothing you could do about it. With Time Shift you get to choose the best shot for every individual's face. More on using this feature later in the book.

In the additional menu settings when in this mode you will see: Switch Camera (toggle between rear and front cameras), the Scene option (default is Auto, but you can also select Action, Whiteboard, Night and Beach or Snow, depending on the surroundings), and Aspect Ratio (1:1, 4:3 or 16:9).

Video Camera

The video camera is pretty straightforward on all phones, and it's no different here. By default image stabilisation is turned on (which is ideal). If you click on additional settings you will see that you get the option to: Switch Camera, change Shooting Mode (Normal and Stabilisation), choose the Scene (Auto, Night and Beach or Snow), you also get an option to turn the LED light (also acts as a flash in still photography) on of off, and of course you get to select the video size (1080p or 720p).

Still Camera

This is the camera that launches by default, and will probably be the most used. In the settings screen you will see: Switch Camera, Shooting Mode Normal, Stabilisation, Burst and High Dynamic Range), Scene (Auto, Action, Whiteboard, Night and Beach or Snow), Flash (Auto, On and Off) and Aspect Ratio (1:1, 4:3 and 16:9).

Other Settings

You can drag the focus box around to tell the camera what to auto-focus on, wait for the object you're shooting to become clear, and then tap anywhere on the screen to click / start recording. You can also use the Volume Up/ Down side keys on the device to click a photograph / record a video when in the Camera app.

When in the camera app, if you swipe down from the top bezel of the screen, you will see the Help and Settings icons. There are three basic settings here – Save on Media Card, Geotag Pictures, HDR Photo Capture. If you travel a lot we'd suggest you turn on Geotagging, but if you don't, save a teeny amount of battery and processor power by leaving it off. If you set the still camera to capture in HDR (High Dynamic Range) mode, turning on the HDR Photo Capture setting will save two pictures every time – one in HDR as you requested, and one in normal mode.

For those who don't know already, HDR is a method used to enhance photographs so that even dimly lit objects are seen as well as brightly lit ones. Let's face it, cameras are just not as sensitive and quick to change focus as our eyes are. Think about when you've watched a sporting event on TV that's being played in a stadium in the day time – most commonly football, cricket or tennis. When part of the stadium is sunny and part of it in shadow, at a football match for example, the TV cameras often take time to adjust to the different contrast levels needed. When the ball goes into a shadow covered area, and the TV camera follows it, you will often find that for a fraction of a second it's too dark, and then all of a sudden the camera adjusts and you can see clearly again. While this happens, you will also see any sunny part of the stadium (if visible in the distance) will become so bright that it's hard to make out details. If the same scene was HDR-ed on the fly, the entire football field would be clearly visible, and only a slight change in contrast would indicate that a portion of it was in a shadow.

Story Maker

In one of the home screens you will see an app called Story Maker. What this app lets you do is take some images and videos, and make a "Story" out of it. You can add some default start effects, captions and titles and make something creative. When you launch Story Maker, swipe down from above the top bezel of the screen to choose whether to Save in 1080p Resolution and whether to Save to Media Card.

In order to make a Story, you're going to need some media – pictures or videos. If you find yourself interested in telling stories via video, you will soon start shooting images and videos accordingly. Once you have the required videos and images to tell your story, launch Story Maker and select the Create New Story icon. In the next screen you will be asked to select the media you want to make into a Story. You can select images or video here. Next, you are asked to add music to the Story. The default audio clips are pretty good, but in case you get bored of them, you can also access MP3s stored on your phone or media card for this. When you click Next, you will see the titles screen, where you can add the opening title for the Story, and also the end credits. After this you will see some preset effects that can be applied to your story, such as Chromatic, Bleach Bypass, Black and White, Vintage, Retrospect and Simplicity. Choose one and save your Story. You can also edit the order of the media used, change the music and change titles anytime. Clicking on Tweak will take you to some advanced settings that will let you control the order in which the story is told, the brightness and contrast, etc. Go on, tell your story...

Remember

BlackBerry 10 has upgraded the old Memos app (from version 7 and earlier), and made it a complete task solution. Instead of dealing with just text memos, you can now add in multimedia such as images and videos, and basically make each task a project of its own. We think it's one of the most underplayed yet brilliant features of the BlackBerry 10 OS.

When you open BlackBerry remember, you will be able to add in a new folder or entry, and you can start doing that right away by tapping on the icons below. You can also click the icon on the bottom left, which says "Folders" by default. This is the view setting, and allows you to switch between the Folders and Entries view.

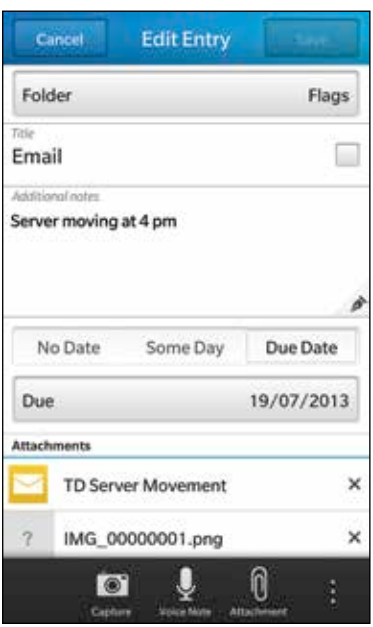
You're probably not going to be setting up too many things to remember within this app, and BlackBerry knows it. What they've done is

integrate the Remember app with the BlackBerry Hub. If you get an email, just Flag it and it will be added to the Unfiled Entries in the Remember App. With most other items that are viewable in the Hub, and through apps that support the share option such as Tweets, pictures, videos , etc., you can just click Share and select Remember to add it to BlackBerry Remember.

When you share something, you will be prompted to give it a name, and add notes and any attachments you want, and you have to select the folder to store it in.

It'd be best if you created folders for things you want to 'Remember', such as "TTD Today", "TTD This Week", "Housework", or basically just folders that you can make sense of.

For example, let's say you had to buy pet food, and kept forgetting or just didn't have time. You pass by a pet store on your way to work, click a picture of it, save it in Remember as "Buy pet food later today", in the "TTD Today" folder. As an after-thought, you remember, you also need to buy a grooming brush, as your dog chewed the last one. You open Remember, go to your memo (the picture of the pet store), and add a voice note, saying, "Buy a



grooming brush, preferably metal, and a chew toy for Tiger." Then, later, whilst surfing aimlessly at work, instead of working, you come across e-bay links for chew toys that contain calcium, and are good for Tiger's bones, and you copy the link, and add that to your Remember entry as well. Actually, since you seem to love Tiger so much, it'd probably be easiest to have a folder called Tiger, and just keep adding things to that folder... but hey, it's your pet, your life, and you should know how to organise it best!

BlackBerry Browser

Although BlackBerrys have always been good for many work-related and professional uses, the browser was always a tad slower than most other phones, and also had some compatibility issues with some sites. Thankfully, with BlackBerry 10 adopting the HTML5 route, this is now a thing of the past. In fact, the BlackBerry Browser currently holds the top spot in the HTML5 compatibility tests that are hosted at *http://html5test.com/results/mobile.html.* A huge step up from earlier for sure, and our experience with the browser has been phenomenal – it breezes through everything on even 2G connections (as much as any browser can 'breeze' on slow 2G speeds), and has some wonderful new features.

By default, the Browser icon is on the very first home screen (second only in importance to Contacts, actually), so just tap it and get browsing.

When you load up the browser, you will see the address bar at the bottom of the screen. On the left of the address bar is an icon that will allow you to access Bookmarks and History, open a New Tab, and show you a list of currently opened tabs. On the right of the address bar is the standard Additional Settings icon (three vertical dots) that will allow you to modify the browser settings. Here you will see the following options:

Downloads

If you set anything to download from within the browser, this will show you a list of active and completed downloads.

Site Info

This is for those paranoid about security. If you want to know how secure the site you're at is, you can click this option to find out. For example, if

you're at *www.thinkdigit.com* and tap on this option, you will see a message that says "This site does not supply identity information. The connection is not protected from eavesdropping." This is pretty much the same for any *http://* site, and you get the exact same message for Google.com, for example. However, for Gmail (*https:///)* you will see something like "Site identity is verified by Equifax. The connection is protected from eavesdropping."

Add to Home Screen

This is basically a way of creating a shortcut to this page / site. It will appear on your Home Screen as an icon, along with the other apps, thus making it easy for you to quickly launch the site. For example, we use this to make Google Maps a quick launch option, since it's not available as an app for BlackBerry 10 as of yet.

Add Bookmark

If you want to save the site / page you're at within the browser itself, click this and it will save as a Bookmark (also called Favourites on other browsers).

Reader

And here we come to the most exciting feature of the BlackBerry browser. Not all sites are equipped to serve out mobile friendly pages, and even some that are, just fill up the page with images, advertisements, and a whole lot of stuff that detracts from your reading experience. Now, YouTube for example, we don't read much at, but on sites such as thinkdigit.com, there's a lot of text to go through in the form of a feature, review, opinion piece, etc. Even though our site is pretty well optimised for mobiles (including the Digit forum), you will still see things such as navigation bars, large images, etc. Using Reader, however, it's all just stripped away, images are made smaller and inline, and it's just much more readable. Throw in the ability to just tap and make font size larger or smaller, and you have one of the best reading experiences possible on a mobile device.

Find on Page, Forward, Reload, Share

These are pretty self-explanatory browser tools. Tapping Share will allow you to share the page you're at with just about any account or contact you have on your phone – including BBM contacts, BBM groups, over SMS, email, NFC, email, and of course Facebook and Twitter.

Settings

Although this is the first option you see, we're coming to it last because it's the one that needs the most explaining.

Display and Actions

You can choose the default view of the browser, and set it to either Show my Home Page or Show Last Tabs. You can choose to open the browser to a specific page, set whether to Open Links for New Tabs in the Background, whether you want Search Suggestions, Adobe Flash support, Audio Feedback, set the Font Size and choose the text encoding.

Privacy and Security

Here you can choose how the browser history is handled (Delete After One Day / One Week / Two Weeks / One Month / Two Months / Six Months / One Year), turn Private Browsing of or off, choose whether to Black Pop-ups, Accept Cookies, select Site Exceptions, Clear History of the browser, and Clear Cookies and Other Data

Site Permissions

If any sites have asked for and gotten special permissions, they will be listed here. For example, the Google Maps site would need permission to access your location, and when you visited it, it would ask for that permission. Google Maps would be listed here after that, so you could view, analyse and revoke any permissions you may have granted earlier.

Developer Tools

If you're a developer, and want to optimise a site for the BlackBerry 10 devices, under this option you'd be able to enable Web Inspector. Basically what Web Inspector does is turn your BlackBerry device into a Web Server, so that you can serve the web pages you visit to another machine that can analyse the code. You will have to setup an IP Address in IPV4 or IPV6 to be able to access this data from the client machine over Wi-Fi or USB cable.

Another option that will be visible here is Desktop Mode, and turning it on will inform the web server you're visiting that it is in fact a desktop browser, instead of the BlackBerry browser. This is useful when you want to view a site in its entirety (regardless of whether the page is readable or not), but it keeps throwing up the mobile version.

In order to speed up the loading of pages, all browsers like to cache files on some storage media. Here you can choose whether to allow the browser to maintain a Disk Cache. If you disable this, every page and every element on those pages will load after being called for. This increases the bandwidth used, obviously.

Multimedia – pictures, music and videos

We've already covered the Pictures and Videos section a little when talking about the camera. However, when viewing the captured images or videos, you get a few more options in the app.

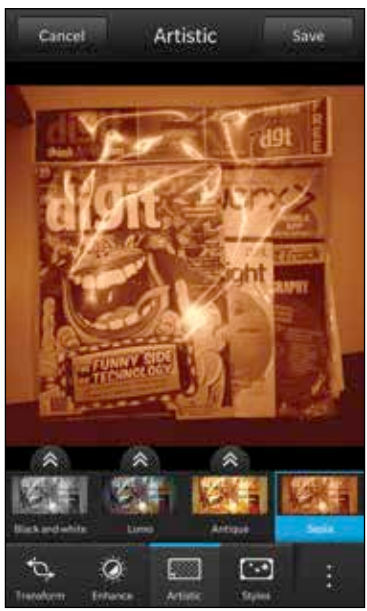
Pictures

When you tap to open the Pictures app, you will be taken to the Recent view, which basically groups and display pictures that have been Recently Added and Recently Viewed. At the bottom of the screen you will see three options – Recent, Camera and Albums. Tapping on Camera will display all the pictures taken by the phone's camera. Clicking on Albums will show you what albums (Folders?) you have on the phone.

Just tap on any image to view it in full screen.

When the image opens, the important features here are Edit and Play on - as everything else (Share, Slideshow, Rotate and Set As) is pretty standard stuff. Clicking on the Additional Options icon will show you the option to Play on, which is basically where you'd go if you wanted to display the picture on an HDTV that you connect using the phone's mini-HDMI port. You can also turn on Wi-Fi and send the image over the air to any other device that supports DLNA, to then show up on some display somewhere in your home network.

Like all good smartphones, BlackBerry 10 devices also allow basic image editing on the phone itself. All you need to do is click on Edit at the bottom of the screen, and start editing your image. You have four options – Transform, Enhance, Artistic and Styles.



Transform

Here you can resize, rotate, change aspect ratio and vertically or horizontally mirror the image in question.

Enhance

Here you can choose to auto-enhance the image, remove red-eye, adjust brightness, white balance,

contrast, sharpness, saturation and remove noise from the image.

Artistic

This applies various preset filters to the image – Black and White, Lomo, Antique, Sepia, Whiteboard, Watercolour, Negative and Sketch. Interestingly, the thumbnails above each of these settings gives you a quick look at how your image will look after applying the setting. This means, if you don't need reading glasses, you can actually save time by choosing what you need, instead of trying out each one.

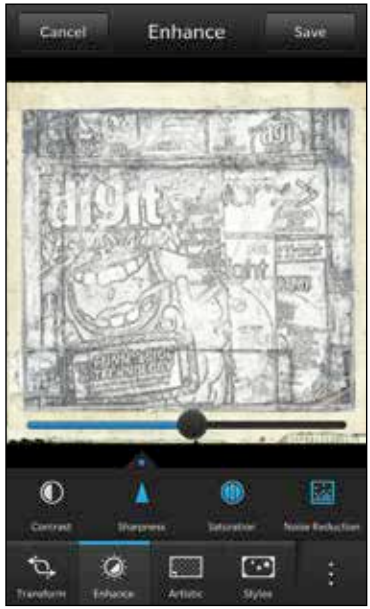
Styles

These are usually effects applied to the image to make it look like a photograph in a frame, for example. Options are Beautify, Sixties, Grain, Aged Photo, Film Strip, Half-tone, Cartoon and Big Eyes. Of these, the first and last (Beautify and Big Eyes) as the names suggest, only work when the phone is able to identify a face in the frame.

Videos

With videos also, you can select and edit them. Basic editing such as cropping the video length is supported. You can also Enhance the video by changing Brightness, Contrast and Colour depth, and also edit the volume at which the video plays. You can also play the videos back via

the mini-HDMI port or streaming to a DLNA server. This is something you will have to enable in Settings › Media Sharing, as we've spoken of before. Again, remember, there are no private folders, and you either choose to share all videos or none over the network.



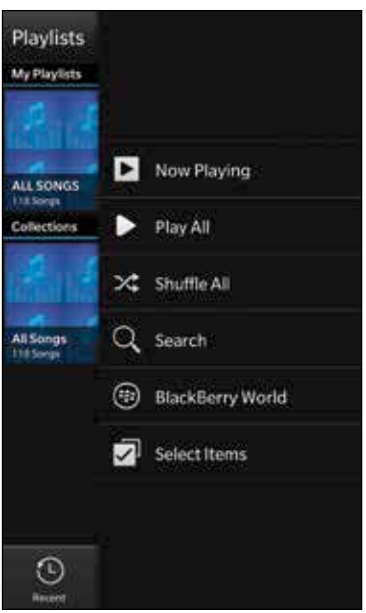
Music

Tap on the Music icon to start the Music Library. One thing that is different straight off the bat is the fact that BlackBerry World (the app store) now sells music, much like iTunes does. The rates are a little steep, but at least you can buy music now, and there are loads of Bollywood favourites, music from Europe, the US, and even slightly off beat artists. We haven't checked out the amount of music available, but you can get anything from Waka Waka by Shakira to Georgia on my mind by Ray Charles, which is a pretty diverse collection. In BlackBerry World, you can listen to a preview of the song, so that you know you're downloading the right track before you buy – just click on the Play button on the left of the song's name.

In the Music App, you will be taken directly to the Recent view. You can also choose to see the Library view or the Playlists view as well. To play songs, just tap them in any of the views and they will

play. You can't queue songs, but you can make playlists from the songs you have on your device. One way to achieve queuing of songs, is to choose the first song you want, add it to a playlist called "1" (so that it shows first in the list) or something like that, and then as you go through the list of music you have, just long press on the next song and add it to that same playlist. Once you're done listening to music, edit the playlist and delete all the songs you added. Next time, rinse and repeat.

Obviously there's no editing of music here, but you can edit your playlists easily just by going into one and tapping Edit, and then you can easily remove songs and rename playlists.



Social networking

Out of the box, a BlackBerry 10 device has the four main apps people want - Facebook, Twitter, Linkedin and Foursquare. Depending on which part of the world you got your device from, there may be additional apps, but these are the four that come with Indian devices as of now. The Twitter app is pretty simple and easy to use, as is the Facebook app, though we're still waiting for a Facebook Chat feature to be added in future updates of this app. These days we don't really

need to explain social networking to anyone, not even the apps, so we're not going to say anything more on the subject.

Docs to Go

Docs to go has been a BlackBerry stable for many years now, and it's essential for anyone who wants to be able to view or edit Microsoft Office files on the go. You can also create DOC and XLS files on the device itself. Since this has been around fr many years now, we're not going to go into it apart from show you a few screenshots so you know how the app looks now.

BLACKBERRY WORLD (APPS)

BlackBerry's version of their app store may not be the largest out there, but is certainly has some interesting apps. In this chapter we'll run you through how to get started with BlackBerry World, and also take a look at some of the best apps on there, in our experience

How things have changed, these days; used to be a time when the phones and their features dictated their popularity, but now it's apps that decide the platform wars between OSes. BlackBerry 10 doesn't have as many apps as Android or iOS – not by a long shot – but it does have a few nice options. Also, with Android apps now portable to the QNX-based BlackBerry 10 (both are sort of UNIX-based, and thus kind of compatible), we only expect the number of apps to go up rapidly if the platform shows promise. However, we get ahead of ourselves. First, let's look at BlackBerry World, and how you install apps.

Finding and installing apps

Just tap on the BlackBerry World icon and you will be taken straight to a BlackBerry World home screen where you will see the highlights of the day/week. As of writing this book, the first screen actually contains some nice freebies that BlackBerry is giving away to BlackBerry 10 subscribers (as in, paid apps that are now free for you).

To be honest, we've always found the BlackBerry World experience to be a little clunky, because the search is often limited, and even categorisation is not really intuitive. We hope that if apps start pouring in at some point, this will get a little better in terms of UI.

The BlackBerry World home screen will have three icons along the bottom – All, Search and Categories.

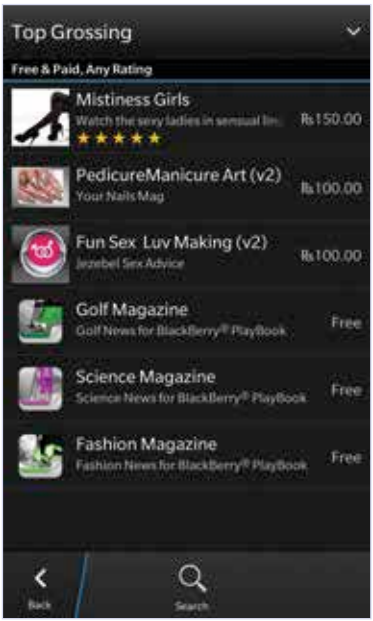
Under Categories, you will find Applications, Games, Magazines and Music. If you click on any one of them, you will go into a second level of categories. This doesn't work as well as we'd like though, because clicking on Apps lists out a lot of categories, one of which is "News and Magazines". Clicking on that category

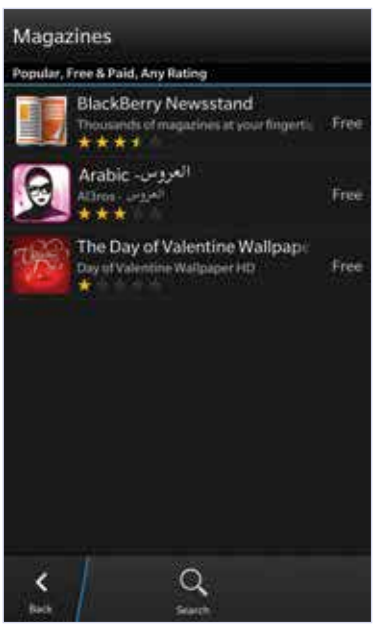
then lists Blogs, Magazines and News & Information. Clicking on Magazines then lists out a large list of titles – everything from Vogue Brasil, to something called Mistiness Girls. Incidentally, the same title is also the Top Paid magazine. Seriously? On your phone? In this day and age? And it's all just lingerie, not even... Fine! It's your life...

The point we were getting to before we got side-tracked was that now remember that main category listing from the BlackBerry World home page? One of them was Magazines, right? How nice, you're going to be running off, palms all sweaty in anticipation, itching to click on "Magazines", and eager to download Misti-whatever... well good luck, because BlackBerry World > Categories > Magazines shows just three magazines (if they can be called that). One of them is BlackBerry Newsstand, which is basically another doorway to all the "thousands of magazines" on sale on BlackBerry World.

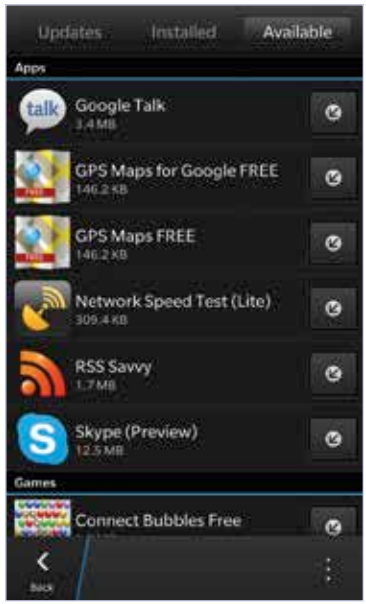
The point is, BlackBerry World could use some serious love from an interface designer, in our humble opinion.

Next, is Search, and this is pretty decent if you know what you're looking for, as in the actual Apps name. But if you search for, say, "Evernote" you can't find it (it's available for previous BlackBerry





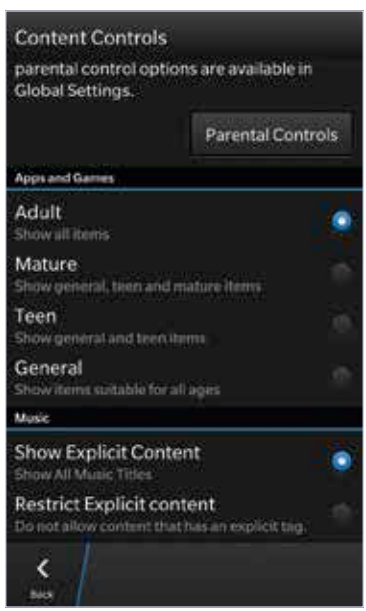
OSes, not 10 just yet), but you do get other apps – BetterNote (which is OK, because it's probably an Evernote clone), but also Guita Tabs (which is basically an app to show guitarists how to play songs). For the life of us we weren't able to figure out why this app showed up for that search, because neither does the word "ever" or "note" appear anywhere in the app name, the description, etc.



Payment options / My World

In the BlackBerry World home screen, clicking on All will pop up a list that also lists Games, Apps, Music (no Magazines here thankfully) and My World. My World is basically your personal account details and a list of the things you've installed using BlackBerry World. Clicking on My World takes you to My Apps and Games, My Music and My Video. You also get a list of apps you viewed recently on BlackBerry World.

Clicking on My Apps and Games, for instance will show you what "Updates" you have available, what you have "Installed", and what's "Available". What's interesting here is the Available tab, which is basically a list of apps you used to have, but either deleted, or got deleted when you upgraded your OS or changed your phone. They're stored in the cloud, and you can install



them again with a single tap. This is pretty handy for us phone reviewers who switch phones very often. Of course only applicable to BB 10 phones, but still handy.

At any time, when within BlackBerry World, you can swipe down from the top of the screen to get to the settings. You will see five icons – Help, Downloads, Scan Barcode, Redeem and Settings. If you get a promotion code from BlackBerry, you can click on Redeem to, well, redeem whatever it is they offered.

Under Settings, you will find:

General

Here you can set BlackBerry World to download music and video content and save it on your memory card, and also enable or disable private browsing. This is useful if you like to look at Misti-type content on a regular basis, and don't want your recent searches and recently viewed items to display such stuff.

Network and Data Limits

Obviously, in the age of limited 3G connections, you may not want to download apps and games over your mobile network. Change the Use Wi-Fi Only setting to On to prevent this from happening. By default, BlackBerry World also limits downloads over mobile networks to items smaller than 50 MB. You can override that here if you have an unlimited 3G plan, and allow any size of download to happen over the cellular network. Obviously, both of these settings cannot be turned On simultaneously.

Content Controls

Here's where you go to turn off the Misti-type content we referred to earlier. When you click this option, you will first be asked to set an access password and then also a recovery question and answer. Make sure it's something you

remember, and then you can set what type of content is displayed. Setting this to General for Apps and Games, and Restrict Explicit Content for Music will be good enough if this phone belongs to a child.

Payment Options

Clicking on payment options takes you to the same setting that we spoke about at the end of Chapter 2.

Apps - our picks

We want to list our choices of apps here, in the Indian context. To install any of these apps, just go to BlackBerry World, search for the name, tap the search result and click Download. Some of these are large, so make sure you have Wi-Fi on, or else you might end up with a rather large mobile bill if you download over the cellular network. If you're worried about this, just go to the Network and Data Limit settings we mentioned earlier, and set Use Wi-Fi Only to On.

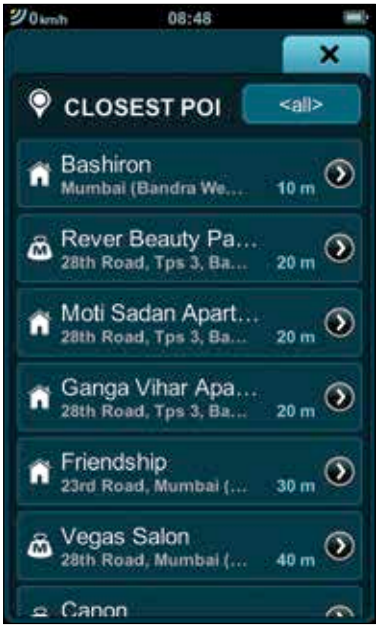
MapMyIndia Navigator

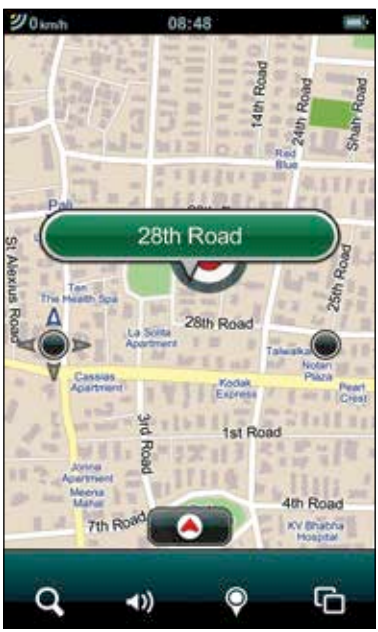
The only thing worse than Apple's mapping app in India is BlackBerry Maps! It just refuses to work, and nothing loads no matter what you do. However, we have to commend BlackBerry on not leaving users in the lurch in India, and tying-up with MapMyIndia to provide India specific maps for free. Of course, you have to have bought your BlackBerry 10 device from an authorised Indian retailer, because if your PIN is not recognised as a made for India device, this application will not work. This writer got his personal Q10 from abroad, and tried contacting MapMyIndia to get a link to their paid App, and failed. The BlackBerry World app

only shows the free version, and no matter how hard we tried, accessing the app from India only shows that version. Thankfully we also got a Z10 from BlackBerry, or we'd have no screenshots for this app.

MapMyIndia Navigator is a pretty decent solution for voice guided navigation around India. When you install the app you will be prompted to install the map packs. This is brilliant if you're used to travelling across India by road, as you will often run out of network coverage, or just have really slow data services that other applications such as Google Maps will struggle with. Of course, you will use up quite a bit of storage space by saving these maps, but it's still invaluable for India's road warriors.

You can choose from one of four map packs – India, Delhi NCR, Karnataka and Maharashtra. The idea here is that if you only travel a lot around one of the three states mentioned, and not really outside that, you don't need to install maps for the whole country. The India map is about 850 MB, the Delhi NCR map is 61 MB, Karnataka is just under 80 MB and Maharashtra is 111 MB. If you choose the India map, make sure you download over Wi-Fi, and go make a couple of sandwiches while you wait for the download to complete.





Once this is done, click on the dropdown under Product Category and select Voices. You can choose from American English, Hindi, Marathi, Punjabi, Tamil and a whole list of foreign languages (Arabic, Bulgarian, Croatian, Danish, Dutch, Estonian, French, Farsi, German, Hebrew, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish and Ukranian). Try saying all that with one breath!

Now you're ready to start using your maps. Overall, we've found MapMyIndia Navigator to be a very good solution. It shows Points of Interest (POIs) around you and also shows FourSquare Venues. The download is only 8.3 MB, and uses anywhere between 15 MB and 1.5 GB after install, depending on what maps you choose and how many voices you add.

WhatsApp

Until BlackBerry Messenger (BBM) becomes available for all platforms, this is by far the best multi-platform messenger out there. With millions of users and billions (if not a trillion) messages flying about across the airwaves, WhatsApp has truly established itself as the messaging client to beat. The first year is free for everyone, and thereafter it's just a dollar per year. Peanuts, considering almost every one of your contacts who owns a smartphone is probably already using this service. We don't think it's even necessary to say any more on the matter. WhatsApp is 7.9 MB and needs about 17 MB of free space.

Skype

Now owned by Microsoft, Skype is still a force to be reckoned with in the messaging and video chatting circle. The major advantage for Skype is that

you can chat / call / video conference with anyone who has Skype installed – on a desktop, laptop, special Skype phone, a smartphone, tablet... anyone, on any platform. An even bigger advantage is that even if you want to call a phone number of a person who isn't running Skype, you can do this for cheaper than your normal ISD call rates. The download size is 12.5 MB and uses about 16 MB of space after install.

Angry Birds Star Wars

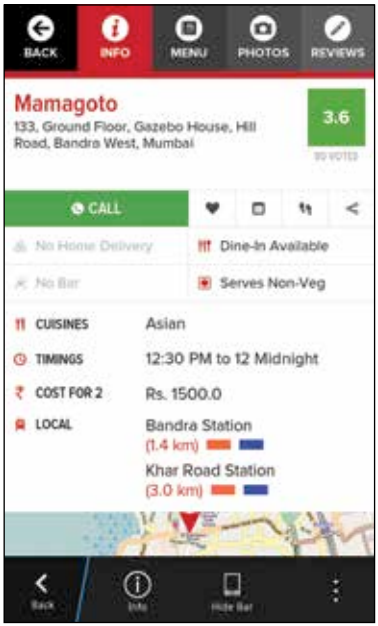
If you've ever used a smartphone, tablet, Google Chrome, been online in the past few years, or even if you've ever visited a toy store, you already know about Angry Birds. This addictive game is arguably the most popular game of all time – with over 1 billion cumulative downloads for the entire series. Angry Birds Star wars transports the belligerent birds and pernicious piggies into space – into the world of the Star Wars saga and across locations such as Tatooine, the Death Star, Hoth, and more. Since everyone we know loves Angry Birds, and almost everyone else on earth loves Star Wars, mating the two stories together was nothing short of brilliant. Also, with the rather neat physics of the Angry Birds franchise meeting space, planets and death rays, how could this game be anything other than fantastic? It's just a 34.5 MB download, and takes up about 79 MB after install, but believe us when we tell you, every byte is packed to the brim with fun and giggles for everyone in the family. Remember to replay and try for 3 stars in every level to unlock some interesting bonus levels.

BlackBerry Travel

For those of you who travel a lot of business or pleasure, BlackBerry Travel is an almost one-stop solution to manage all the nitty-gritty details that usually bug you when planning a trip. You can not only plan, but also book activities, hotel stay and transport right from within the app. You can't book flights, but once you've done that, enter details into BlackBerry Travel and it will remind you of pending journeys, inform you if there are changes to flight status. What's more, BlackBerry Travel is built to scan your email for flight and hotel bookings, and can automatically add that to your itinerary – no inputs from you needed! The app download is just over 8 MB and uses up about 11 MB of space.

Zomato

If you live in one our larger cities in India, and eat out or order in a lot, you just have to have Zomato on your phone. Apart from allowing you to find the best restaurants around you, in a location you're travelling to, or in another city you're visiting, Zomato also allows you to review the places you've eaten at in order to play your part in ensuring that millions of Zomato users eat well, and thousands of restaurants improve their quality. You can filter the restaurants near you based on distance from you, the cuisines they offer, whether they offer delivery and/or dine in, the cost for two people, whether they offer any discounts, are pure veg... the list goes on. Chances are, if you have a craving for a specific kind of cuisine, want the restaurant to accept credit cards, not be too expensive, serve alcohol, stay open past midnight, offers free Wi-Fi, has outdoor seating AND is close to you... Zomato's probably the only one who could tell you all that. You can even take a look at the menu right on your phone to make sure it really does suit you. You



can even get the phone number and call ahead to make a reservation, and then find your way to it by getting directions (via Google maps) from within the Zomato app itself. All of that in a mere 3.1 MB package; what are you waiting for? Of course you'll need a net connection on your phone to use the app, but then again, who doesn't have one of those eh?

TuneIn Radio

If you're one of those people who gets bored of the music stored on your phone very quickly, you need an internet radio service. TuneIn Radio gives you access to over 70,000 radio stations, 2 million podcasts and various concerts and live shows, all from across the globe, straight to your phone. At a mere 2.5 MB (8 MB after install) this is the easiest way to get access to radio stations from across the globe. In fact, it has one of the best app descriptions that we've ever seen on BlackBerry World – "Listen to the world's radio." That's it, there's no more... Now that's the mark of an unpretentious, über-cool app, that knows it just does everything right, and lets its services and reviews speak for themselves. You can set Favourites when you come across a station you like, so you never have to remember them – which is good

because some of these stations have really forgettable names.

N.O.V.A. 3 Free

As of writing this book, there are two major games (this one and the next in the list) from Gameloft being given away for free on BlackBerry World. We certainly hope they stay that way until after you've read this.

N.O.V.A. (Near Orbit Vanguard Alliance) 3 is a sci-fi, action-adventure FPS for almost all platforms. N.O.V.A (part 1) was critically acclaimed as being the best FPS shooter on the iOS platform in its time, and N.O.V.A. 3 is no exception to the game's

good genealogy. Go have an adventure as Kal wardin, and go visit a long dead Earth in this sequel. Maybe you can play a part in bringing our dead planet back to life; and kill tonnes of bad aliens along the way, of course. This is a hefty 1.6 GB download, and will eat 2 GB of your space for breakfast... use your Wi-Fi connection to download if you know what's good for you!

Asphalt 7 Free

We Indian's love us some racing game action. NFS is still one of the most popular games in India. Maybe it's the perpetual traffic jams we find ourselves stuck in, or the fact that there's never any place on our roads to go wild... whatever the reason, the wilder the racing game, the more popular it is in this country. Now picture a game with Burnout style takedowns, with great looking tracks, good music, and also time trials, races and a lot of multiplayer goodness, and that's Asphalt 7: Heat. It's a 1 GB download (1.3 GB after install) and it's free as of now. What else can we ask for?

SECURE YOUR BLACKBERRY

BlackBerrys are all about security, and still are, though with the new OS, things are done just slightly differently in some places. Here we'll walk you through how to secure your device, so that even if you lose it, all of your data is totally private

There are two ways in which you can secure your phone. Using BlackBerry Protect to secure it remotely, and using the inbuilt security options to ensure your phone is safe. We'll walk you through both options in this chapter, and also show you how to encrypt files so that even losing your phone will not expose your data to snooping.

BlackBerry Protect

BlackBerry Protect is a BlackBerry service that's been around for a while now, and it helps you secure your phone in case you lose it or it gets stolen. Using this service you can track your phone, and even prevent people from using it, to some extent. For example, if someone puts in a new SIM card, and boots up your phone, they will be prompted for your BlackBerry ID password. If they enter it incorrectly 10 times, the phone is wiped. Since the PIN is tied to your ID, you can track the phone if location services are turned on.

Another thing Protect did for phones prior to BlackBerry 10 was take backups of your contact list and BBM contacts regularly, so losing your phone didn't mean you lost all your contact data. With BlackBerry 10, however, this seems to have been discontinued. That's because you can sync your data with BlackBerry Link wirelessly, and don't have to use a USB cable to connect to your PC anymore – more on that later.

If you've lost your phone, you can display a message on the device, asking the person who found it to return it. You can also remotely lock the device, or you can wipe the device (memory card included) remotely, to ensure your data is not accessed.

First things first, you need to enable BlackBerry Protect from your Settings menu on the phone. Once you have done this, you can log on to *https://protect.blackberry.com* and manage your device(s).

BlackBerry Protect
BlackBerry
My Device
My Data
Manage Devices
View Location
Play Sound
Display a Message
Lock Device
Wipe Device
Model
PIN
Display a Message

airtel
22:20
Fri 12 Jul
Hey, give me my phone back you thief!

After you login with your BlackBerry ID, you will be able to see the location of your phone, play a sound on the device (don't try this at night, the sound is loud and irritating and will wake up the neighbours), display a message (give me back my phone you thief!), lock the device (and change the password as well if you want to), and even wipe the device remotely if you have given up all hope of ever getting it back. Wiping the device also wipes the media card, and you will not be able to use BlackBerry Protect again to track it down. Do this only as a last resort.

Phone security

In order to secure your phone, there are a few things you can do. We've covered them in short at the relevant Settings menus level, but now it's time for you to do it all at once and make your phone as secure as it can be.

First things first, go to Settings > Security and Privacy > Device Password. Set a password for your phone here by turning the Device Password on. Make sure the Lock device After setting is set to as low a timeframe as you can manage. 1 minute may be too short a time, and 30 minutes is definitely too long a time. Usually 2 or 5 minutes is ideal, depending on how paranoid you are. Also make sure to set the Lock device when Holstered setting on, and if you're super paranoid, do not enable the Allow Apps to Extend Password Lock Time. You might get irritated with your phone when watching a video though, as the device will lock after the set time, no matter what, if this setting isn't enabled.

Next, go to Settings > Security and Privacy > Encryption and turn Device Encryption and Media Card Encryption on. Again, we want to remind you to turn off media card encryption before you wipe your device, or else everything on your media card will be inaccessible for good. It may not even work again on the same device if the device is formatted.

Though not popular these days, some people might want the additional security of locking their SIM card as well. You can set the PIN Lock and PIN 2 locks by going to Settings > Security and Privacy > SIM Card.

BLACKBERRY 10 TIPS AND TRICKS

One of the things we like about BlackBerry is the shortcuts and hidden features that power users like to show off knowledge of. This chapter will detail some lesser known BlackBerry 10 tips and tricks, to really give you that edge over the average user. All of the general tips and tricks we've covered in previous chapters under the respective topics.

Camera – Focus better

When you start the still camera, you will see the Focus Box. This box is movable, so move it to the subject that you're trying to focus on to get the inbuilt auto-focus to make that subject the sharpest.

Camera – Preview last image

When you click a picture, you don't need to click on the thumbnail of the image that is clicked to go into the Pictures app, check it and then go back to the camera. You can just tap and hold your finger on the image, move your finger slightly upwards and the image will become full screen – thus allowing you to check it for clarity and quality. Once you're done viewing it, just let go and it minimises to a thumbnail again. If the image is not up to your standards, you can just click another one immediately.

BBM – Change from normal call to BBM Video

This only works with a BBM contact, who also has BlackBerry 10, and is also currently available to make BBM calls to. When someone like that calls you, you will see a BBM Video icon on the call screen. Tapping that icons will auto-magically place and connect a BBM Video call, and it will also hang-up the regular phone call, and you will transition from a voice call to a video call without having to do anything more.

Email – Add rich formatting to email

It's about time. The one thing we hated on previous BlackBerrys was the lack of rich formatting for email replies. When you're replying to an email, just hide the keyboard once by swiping down with two fingers, click the Format icon at the bottom (looks like an old ink pen), and the formatting bar is brought up. You can bring up the keyboard and continue writing out your email, formatting as you go. Supported formats include Bold, Italics, Underline, Bulleted list, Numbered list, changing font size and changing font colour. The only thing that irritates us is that after you apply a format, the selection goes away. So you have to select the text again and format again if you want to first make something Bold, and then also change the font colour. We can hope this will be fixed in future OS releases.

General – Take a screenshot

We didn't sit around with cameras focussed on our devices to get you

the screenshots that you see in this book. Instead, all you have to do is press the volume up and down buttons that are on the right-side of the device together. You will hear a snapshot sound letting you know your screenshot was taken and saved. It's saved in the phone memory by default, so don't look for it in your media card.

General – Make a ZIP

If you want to send a bunch of attachments to someone, but want to compress, don't want to attach things several times, and more importantly don't want to irritate the recipient with 20 attachments that they have to download – BlackBerry 10 allows you to create a zip archive on your phone itself.

Go to the File Manager, find the location where all your files are. If they're not all in one place, we'd suggest that you copy/move them all into one location by making a new folder, then go to additional options (three vertical dots), use the Select option to select multiple files, and then just click on the Zip icon (it's the one with a zipper on a file, duh!) and the device will zip them all and store the zip file in the same folder you're currently browsing. This will make it easier to share all those files with others.

General – Speedy Home Screens

Tap and hold the Home Screen counter (the one at the bottom of the screen that shows which of the many screens you're on). This will allow you to swipe through screens with only minimal movement of your finger – this is very useful for those who have many home screens, and want to get to an app that's stored in the last screen, while you're currently in the first screen!

Since BlackBerry 10 only shows 10 Home Screens at a time on the bottom, this scroll will only take you from screen 1 to screen 10. After that you have to swipe once to get to screen 11, and then use the same method to quick-swipe through screens 11 to 20... and so on.

General – Shortcut to the Hub

In the same area we spoke of above, you will see a tiny three horizontal line icon. This is the shortcut to the Hub. Although you can get to the hub from anywhere by swiping up and right, this requires only a single tap, and you're there!

General – Another shortcut

If you have apps open, you will see a tiny icon appear right next to the tiny Hub icon we spoke of before this. Just tap that to get to your running apps in a jiffy, even if you're on home screen 10!

General – Search smarter

When you search for something, using the Universal Search from anywhere in the OS, or even the Hub / email search, remember to use the option that appears directly to the left of the search term you just typed. For example, in universal search, if you're getting too many results, you can select the icon, and choose to search for All, Contacts, Text Messages, Calendar or Messages. The same icon in an email inbox for example, will ask you to refine your search to preset fields – All Fields, To, Cc, Bcc, Subject and Message. What's good here is that it also lets you filter your search to look only for messages that are: Unread, Attachments, Flagged, Received, Today, Yesterday and Last Week.

General – The correct charge

Don't use older BlackBerry chargers to try and charge your BlackBerry 10 device. These are lower power chargers, and will result in your phone taking a lot longer to charge than it should. The good thing is that the BlackBerry charger is just a plug with a USB port, so if you find the provided connector cable to be too short (and you probably will), you can use any other device's micro USB cable (the longer ones you get with a Kindle, for example) to charge your phone – so long as you use the same plug that came with your phone.

Hub – Restart the Hub

Sometimes the BlackBerry Hub needs to be restarted. For example, you've deleted all chats in BBM or WhatsApp or something, and yet they continue to show in the Hub. All you need to do is quickly swipe 5 times from the top right corner of your screen towards the centre. You will see the Hub restart just as you finish the fifth swipe, and all your ghost chats should be gone.

Keyboard – You dictator!

Fed up of typing? Just bring up the on-screen keyboard and tap and hold the fullstop button to start dictation. Tap done when you're finished

speaking. You might need to correct a few words here and there, but it will give your thumbs some much needed rest – for a bit anyway.

Keyboard – Teach the teacher

The BlackBerry keyboard autocorrects for you like mad, especially when you try and type at the speed of light – and fail miserably. If it wasn't for the autocorrect, either you'd be typing a lot slower, or no one would ever understand what you were trying to say. However, we do use a lot of slang, Hinglish words, abbreviations, etc. Chances are you will see a lot of red underlines, or worse, weird autocorrected words that can make you fall off your chair laughing. An easy way to add a red-underlined (erroneous) word is to tap on it once and select Add to Dictionary. It's a gradual process, and a little irritating to begin with, but you will soon find yourself enjoying the lack of time spent correcting the auto-correct. Plus, these will actually show up as suggestions when you type, and you'll be able to swipe them up to speed up your typing speeds.

Keyboard – Adjusting the cursor

When you tap somewhere in a sentence, you see the circular cursor appear. Instead of trying to drag this with pin-point accuracy to exactly where in the text you want to be, get as close as you can with a single drag, and then just tap the left or right side of the cursor to move one character in the direction of the tap. This is a lot faster than dealing with your finger sliding a little extra and your cursor running away from you.

Keyboard (Z10) – Quick delete

When typing in any app or screen, if you find that you want to delete a sentence, instead of holding down the delete button, or trying to select the whole sentence, just swipe a finger from right to left and you will see that this action deletes entire words at a time. If your sentence is 5 words long, 5 simple swipes across the keyboard will delete it entirely.

Keyboard (Z10) – Even quicker delete

What happens if you want to delete a 20 word sentence? Surely selecting the text and deleting would be faster! Yes, we know it's a pain, tapping, getting the selection sliders, adjusting them to select the exact two or three lines of text you want to delete, not just at the start but also at the end, and then pressing delete... still beats 20 swipes, right? Wrong. This

is a multi-touch screen remember? Swipe from right to left using two fingers across the keyboard and you will see two words being deleted at a time, use three or four, and you can delete four words at a time. You don't even have to make the swipe completely from right to left, just half-way across the keyboard does the trick, and also speeds up the swipes. This will get you to delete entire paragraphs faster, and won't have you fiddling with those silly selection sliders!

Keyboard (Z10) – Quick keyboard change

Instead of aiming at and tapping on the "?123" button on the keyboard, to try and get, say, the $ symbol. All you have to do is swipe downwards with one finger within the keyboard. Don't start above the keyboard, because that minimises it, just start and end your swipe anywhere between the inside top edge of the keyboard and the bottom – even a short swipe across just one of the horizontal separators does the trick.

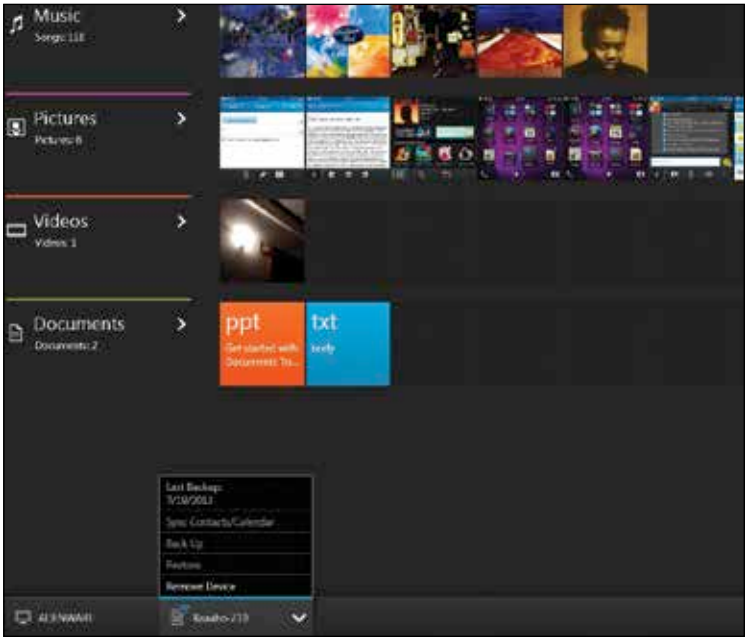
BLACKBERRY 10 PHONE WORKSHOPS

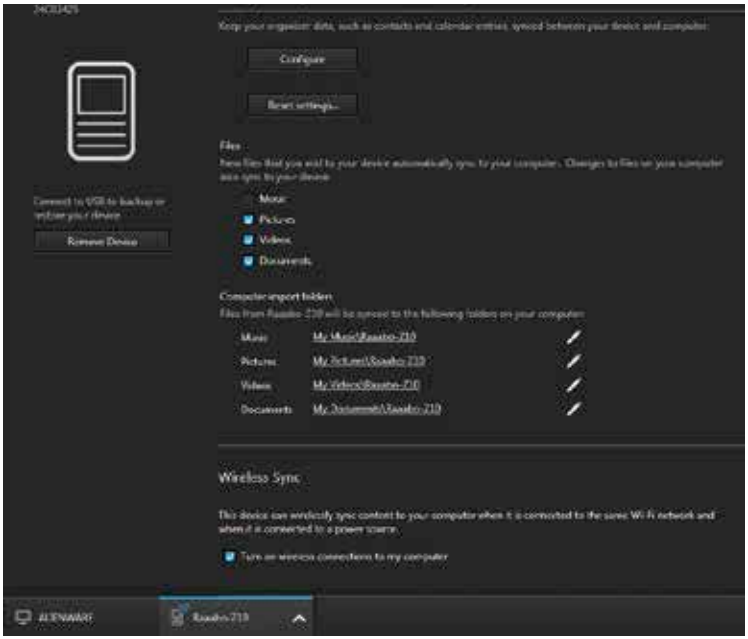
It's all well and good to know about the phones and how to use them, but what do you do when you've just bought a new BlackBerry 10 device? This chapter will help you upgrade to a BlackBerry 10 device from an older BlackBerry, and also from other popular platforms, and also show you how to backup, upgrade and copy files to-and-from the device.

BlackBerry Link

As of BlackBerry 10, they have done away with the old Desktop Manager, and brought out BlackBerry Link as the way to connect your phone to your PC. Although the idea for the software is commendable, the implementation leaves a lot to be desired for us. Still, you're going to need a little pointer to get you started, and that's what this workshop aims to do.

Although the first time you connect your new phone to your PC, the phone will prompt you to install BlackBerry Link (it's also stored in your phone), we recommend you visit *http://in.blackberry.com/support/apps/*





blackberry-link/overview.html to get the latest version instead, before you connect your phone to your PC. Once it's installed, start up the BlackBerry Link software and connect your phone to the PC using the USB cable it came with.

The first thing BlackBerry Link will do is give your computer a name, it will prompt you for a short name, so that your phone and computer can link using this name. After this, your phone will show up and you will be prompted to give that a name as well. If the name's already set on the phone, it will display as such in BlackBerry Link. BlackBerry Link will also ask you to sign in with your BlackBerry ID on the computer.

You will see your device listed on the bottom left of your PC screen.

Switching from an older BlackBerry

If you have a BlackBerry already (OS 7 and later), you can switch devices using your media card itself. Just search for "device switch" on the old phone, and follow the instructions there. A backup will be copied to your media card. Now insert the media card into your new BlackBerry 10 phone (while it's on), and when you are prompted to copy data, just click on Transfer,

and everything will be transferred. If you set a password for the data at the time of copying, you will need to enter that here.

You can also use BlackBerry Link, as it recognises backup data for older phones (backed up with Desktop Manager). After your device is connected, just select restore, and choose the backup file you want to restore your device with. Of course not all settings will be transferred, but any media, contacts, SMS messages and the likes will be transferred.

Switching from iOS or Android

It's easy to switch from these two platforms, because there's a handy app for all three platforms called Device Switch. This free app needs to be installed on both phones, and then both phones need to be connected to the same Wi-Fi network. Device Switch will ensure that the devices discover each other and then give you the option of what you want to transfer from the phone you're switching from, to the phone you're switching to. This app works well for switching away from BlackBerry 10, or switching from iOS to Android, and vice versa as well.

Switching from older phones

Whatever you can drag and drop out of your old phone is easily transferrable to your BlackBerry 10 device, however it's a lot harder to transfer contacts. One way you can attempt this is to create a new Gmail account, copy all contacts off your old phone in CSV format (preferably one large CSV with all contacts), and then go to Gmail. On the top left you will see Mail, and clicking on that will give you the option of selecting Contacts. Click that and then above your contact list (should be blank for a new account), you will see a More option. Click that and then select Import Contacts. You can import using this CSV here. Once done, on your phone, go to Settings > Account Settings and tap the Add Account icon on the bottom. Select the Email, Calendar and Contacts option, add in the details of your Gmail (username and password) and when prompted, turn Email and Calendar sync to Off and Contacts to On. This will bring all your contacts into your phone.

How to Setup a mobile hotspot

With most modern smartphones, you can set up a mobile hotspot to share your 3G data connection with. Beware, if you pay high 3G charges, this can really spike your bill, as computers especially use a lot of data in the back-

ground – updating an antivirus, updating Flash, iTunes, and God knows what else! You've been warned.

To set up your phone as a hotspot, go to Settings > Network Connections > Mobile hotspot. Here you will see a wizard that will help you with the setup. Click Next and your device will give you a similar warning about data charges as we have given you above. Click Next and your phone will warn you about monitoring Hotspot Users, telling you that you are responsible for them, etc. Next you get a warning about this feature using battery power, and thus are advised to connect your device to a power source. You are also told that if the phone detects no activity for 15 minutes, it will shut off the mobile hotspot, clicking Next will bring you to the first settings screen where you set the password for devices that are allowed to connect to your hotspot. Keep this password complicated, and not "12345678" to prevent unknown users from connecting. Once turned on, click on the Configure button below to set a proper name for your hotspot that you can easily identify, and also to change the inactivity timer, if you so desire.

Now on your other device (laptop, PC, phone, tablet, etc) select the hotspot and login. On your phone you will see the device connect, and can choose to not allow any more devices to connect by unchecking the "Allow more devices to connect" check box. You can allow up to 8 devices to connect, but that would really kill your battery in a jiffy. Make sure to turn the hotspot off when you're done. Next time you want to enable the hotspot, it will simply be a question of turning the setting on, and you won't have to see any of the warnings we mentioned before.

OS update

You can install updates from the phone itself, or using BlackBerry link. On the phone, go to Settings > Software Update and click on Check for Updates. If there is an update available, you will see it here and be prompted to download and install it. We recommend you connect to a Wi-Fi network before you download any updates to avoid network data charges. Remember, these software updates are network provider specific, and it's not necessary that all providers will roll out updates at the same time. If a friend has a software update and you don't, it's because your mobile provider hasn't authorised the update yet. There's a simple work around for this, just borrow your friend's SIM card, insert it into your device and re-run the check for update step we listed above. You should now see the update, and be able to install it. Actually, you should be able to do the same with even a non-provisioned SIM, because the update service only reads the network provider's ID and then searches the appropriate server for updates. Thus, if you're a Vodafone subscriber, and find out that Airtel has an update that Vodafone hasn't rolled out yet, just insert even an expired or disconnected Airtel card into your device, connect to Wi-Fi and Check for Updates, and you should see the Airtel update available to you for download.

Using BlackBerry Link, you will have to wait for Link to discover the new update, and it will prompt you when it does. The advantage with Link is that it backs up all your device data automatically before installing the update, whereas with OTA (over the air) updates, you're going to have to remember to backup all your data yourself (by connecting to BlackBerry Link and backing up, before installing the OTA update).

You can also install leaked OS updates, and this writer is headed off to try the newest 10.2 leak that's out there as soon as this Fast Track's put to bed, but remember, doing so could very well void your warranty, and installing non-official updates can also cause you to software-brick your precious new BlackBerry, so we don't recommend it for anyone who isn't absolutely sure of what they're doing. If you still want to try your hand at installing leaked OSes for your device, head over to the infamous CrackBerry.com for more power user goodness. We're not going to spoon feed you with links, simply because if you need us to do that, you're probably not equipped to handle advanced tweaking, and we certainly do not want to point you in a direction that could cause your brand new BlackBerry 10 device to be about as useful as a paperweight!

MEET THE NEW PHONES (WHICH ONE'S FOR YOU?)

With three basic models of phones running BlackBerry 10 released, and a few more rumoured to be on the way, it becomes important to know what's really different between them, who should choose which one and why, and of course, what are the drawbacks if any. The last chapter in this book does exactly that.

There are currently three distinct models running the BlackBerry 10 OS: The all touch Z10, the flagship QWERTY called the Q10 and the lower-priced QWERTY phone, the Q5.

Design

As we've mentioned before, BlackBerry 10 has been built from the ground up to be touch-friendly. This obviously brought about some important hardware design changes – the Z10 for instance looks nothing like any BlackBerry before it, while the Q10, for example, does emanate a distinct classic feel, but with major changes.

thinkdigit.com

Z10

As soon as you pull out the device from the box, you will be struck by how aesthetically pleasing it is to the eye. In fact, many people have commented about how much the Z10 looks like the iPhone 5's cousin. Now, we're not suggesting that BlackBerry just sat down and copied the iPhone 5, or vice versa – instead we're saying that two good design teams, designing two flagship products, for pretty much a similar task-set and experience, might just have come up with something very similar. It's like F1 cars being designed in wind tunnels to offer maximum downforce, and also reduce drag at the same time. In the end, most F1 cars look identical to the untrained eye – not just because of the FIA's directives, but because there are only so many different paths a design team can take to improve performance.

The phone is almost all glass in the front and mostly plastic in the back. It's available in white and black in India, and we've heard rumours of more colours coming, but we cannot confirm that for sure. By far, our favourite colour hack was an experiment we saw on Crackberry.com that we also tried out for ourselves – putting the back panel of the black model on to the white phone to give you (in Crackberry's words) 'the BlackBerry Z10 Oreo'. No such phone exists, of course, but something tells us enough white Z10 users will go hunting for replacement black back panels. There's another reason for this, of course, not just aesthetics. The white Z10 back feels more plastic-like, whereas the black model has a softer, grippier, rubbery feel; as a result the black Z10 sits more securely in your palm, and inspires more confidence. If you own a white Z10, we suggest you try on the black back panel – you're sure to fall in love.

Q10

The Q10, on the other hand, screams BlackBerry with its traditional QWERTY keyboard. What most BlackBerry users will notice immediately, is that it's a hybrid touch-keyboard device, much like the BlackBerry Bold Touch 9900, but it's missing the optical scroll wheel/trackpad and the four soft-buttons that most older BlackBerry users swore by thus far – the menu, back, call and disconnect key are not on the Q10.

Here also, the white and black Q10s are slightly different. The white Q10 has a plastic back, while the black one comes with a back that's made using what BlackBerry call their 3D glass weave technology. Basically, instead of the plastic / glassy material being made in a cast, it's woven – and this gives it extra durability and flexibility, makes it tougher, and also makes each Q10

thinkdigit.com

unique. At a microscopic level you would be able to find a difference in the patterns on different Q10s. What does this mean? Absolutely nothing, of course, except to give you something to say at a party when showing off your new phone. The Q10 exudes class though, and it's our favourite looking BlackBerry of all time (so far).

The keyboard is straight aligned, and not staggered like on your laptop or PC keyboard (traditionally the A key is slightly to the right of the Q key, etc). This alignment of keys on the Q10 didn't bother us at all, in fact, and the keys are designed in a way to fit your thumbs really well.

Q5

The Q5 feels a lot cheaper than the Q10 in hand, though we're not saying it feels like a cheap phone. It's just that the Q10 is a slightly more classy phone, and why not – it costs 20K more in India after all! The first thing you will notice about the Q5 is that it has a solid body – no removable battery. The Q5 is all plastic, but feels like durable and solid plastic, so it's not a cheaply built phone, but it certainly isn't as impressively built as the two before it. The keys are slightly more space out on the Q5, and some people will actually prefer this. With a 2180 mAh battery, this is the biggest in a BlackBerry ever – even more than the Z10 and Q10, so it's not a cheapened version in that way.

Specs and buying decisions

Here's the bottom line, the big cheese, the conclusion to this Fast Track, the last word, the buck stops here... and so do our clichés.

After going through this Fast Track, you've probably made up your mind already on whether you want to switch to the BlackBerry 10 platform or not. Assuming you have decided to, or are teetering on the edge wondering which phone suits you best, we'll summarise the available models for you below and tell you who the devices suit:

Z10

The Z10 is a classic touch-based, modern-day smartphone. It's impressive looking, has a good 4.2 inch high-res screen (355 pixels per inch) and has now been updated to OS 10.1. The hardware specs are a little different for the models available in India. There are four models of the Z10 worldwide – STL100-1/2/3/4 – and the STL100-1 is what we get here. The STL100-1 has a Texas Instruments OMAP SoC, a 1.5 GHz dual-core, ARM Cortex-A9 + 2 x ARM Cortex-M3 CPUs, and a PowerVR SGX 544 GPU. The other models (STL100-2/3/4) have a Qualcomm snapdragon S4 SoC with a 1.5 GHz, dual-core Krait CPU, with an Adreno 225 GPU. None of this really matters to the way you use the phone, of course, but it's good for you to know. If you buy your Z10 abroad (US, UK, etc) you will get a different model than the ones available here, and this will result in minor performance differences. The STL100-2/3/4 are slightly faster, in terms of loading times and performance, and support LTE (4G).

The Z10 is the device for you if you find yourself watching a lot of video content, surfing a lot, and generally needing a large, wide-screen format. If you're used to touch-only devices, you will feel right at home here, and have no troubles switching platforms (in case you're used to Android or iOS already).

Q10

The Q10 is available in five different models – SQN100-1/2/3/4/5 – of which the SQN100-3 model is available in India. There's no major hardware difference between the models as such, except that the SQN100-3 model offers penta-band LTE (4G) (800/850/900/1800/2600 MHz LTE), while the others offer Quad, dual or single band LTE, depending on the region (and model). The hardware is the same as the LTE versions of the Z10 – Qualcomm Snapdragon 1.5 GHz, dual-core CPU, Adreno 225 GPU, but this sports a Super AMOLED 3.1-inch screen (329 ppi).

All the specs aside, this is a powerful smartphone for those who type a lot, and are willing to lose out on screen real estate just to get the hardware

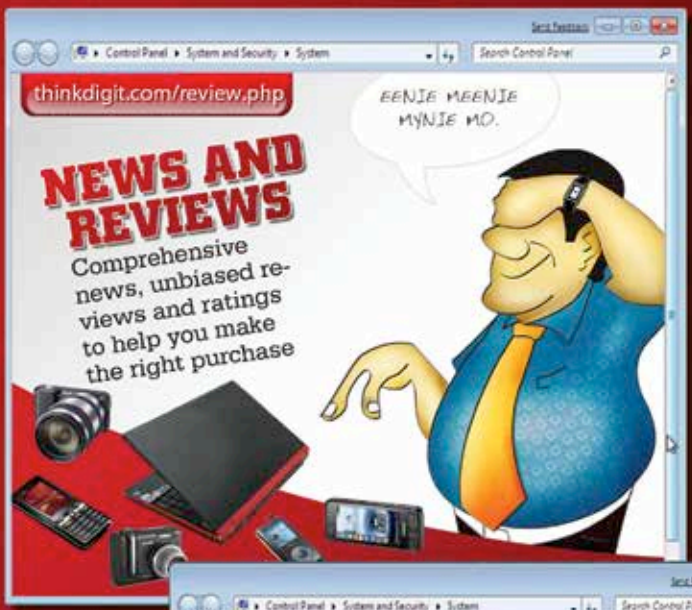
keyboard. It's also a natural step up for those who are existing BlackBerry users – chances are you love your BlackBerry keyboard, and don't want to part with it just yet. If you can hear yourself say, "Hey! It's bad enough they did away with the optical trackpad and the menu and return buttons, they also want to get rid of keyboards now? Ridiculous!", the Q10 is the right choice for you. Think of it as an upgrade for Bold 9900 users – the premium category of QWERTY BlackBerry 10 phones.

Q5

The Q5 launched in India just as we were wrapping up this book. Although this Mumbai-based writer is yet to see it, after extensive talks with our Test Centre in Delhi, we're confident that it's a good enough phone, and will not leave you wishing you had spent the extra money to buy the Q10 instead. In fact, from what we hear, some aspects of the Q5 are actually as good if not better than the Q10!

The device has 8 GB of internal storage (half of the Q10), and features a Qualcomm Snapdragon S4, 1.2 GHz, dual-core CPU, (rumoured to have the Adreno 305 GPU, but this is unconfirmed), and an IPS LCD offering the same pixel density as the Q10 (329 ppi). The phone has expandable memory (up to 32 GB vs. the Z10/Q10's upgradability to 64GB), and a 5 MP rear camera (8 MP in the Z10 and Q10).

If you've been a BlackBerry Curve user, and just do not want to spend upwards of 40K on a new BlackBerry, but still want to get on the BlackBerry 10 OS, the Q5 is the ideal device to switch to – it gives you the QWERTY goodness you're used to, won't burn as big a hole in your pocket (25K price tag vs an almost 45K price tag for the Q10), and with the ability to expand memory size by 32 GB using the micro SD card slot, you will not be limited to the 8 GB internal memory. Overall a good phone to get on the BlackBerry 10 platform with.



All this and more in the
world of Technology

VISIT NOW

www.thinkdigit.com

RNI REGN. No. MAH ENG/2001/3791

www.facebook.com

Join 1 lakh+ members of the Digit community

http://www.facebook.com/thinkdigit

facebook

Digit

Your favourite magazine on your social network. Interact with thousands of fellow Digit readers.

http://www.facebook.com/IThinkGadgets

facebook

I Think Gadgets

An active community for those of you who love mobiles, laptops, cameras and other gadgets. Learn and share more on technology.

http://www.facebook.com/GladtobeaProgrammer

facebook

Glad to be a Programmer

If you enjoy writing code, this community is for you. Be a part and find your way through development.

http://www.facebook.com/devworx.in

facebook

Devworx

devworx, a niche community for software developers in India, is supported by 9.9 Media, publishers of Digit